

Blow for Botha mars announcement of election

South African ambassador to London quits

By Andrew McEwen and Michael Hornsby

Pretoria's ambassador to London, Dr Denis Worrall, announced his resignation yesterday, a move which will be a strong blow to the South African government's election campaign on May 6.

While refusing to confirm speculation that he will fight President P W Botha's National Party in the election, he said: "For some time now my government has known that it has been my wish to return to South Africa and re-enter national public life."

Dr Worrall, aged 51, an eloquent defender of Pretoria's policies, has been described as a "close liberal". A Cape Town newspaper suggested he would join a rebellious faction of the National Party which demands quicker reform of apartheid.

A slender hint of his political views was included in his statement yesterday. "The international experience of the last four years has convinced me more than ever that South Africa has a great future and I would like to make my contribution to its realisation. In particular, I believe that this is a time for 'bridge'

builders' within all communities in South Africa to make themselves heard."

Dr Worrall, who began his mission to London in 1984, informed the British government of his intentions on Thursday. Using a procedure known as "letters of recall", he wrote to the Queen but addressed the letter to the Foreign Office.

Whitehall sources said the letter contained the date of his departure, but neither the Foreign Office nor the Embassy would reveal it.

His staff said that he was still at his desk yesterday and remained head of the mission. His Romanian-born wife Anita and the younger two of their three sons, Linden, Christopher and Dean, were still in Britain.

Dr Worrall's time in Britain has been marked by a deterioration in relations between Whitehall and Pretoria, especially when Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, made a futile trip to South Africa last year.

Dr Worrall said: "I set myself the task of raising the level of debate of the issues which South Africa poses and which arise in UK-South Africa relations."

"I have tried to convey two important points of view. Firstly, that sanctions do not work, and secondly, that answers to South Africa's problems must be found within South Africa itself."

lems must be worked out in South Africa itself by all of South Africa's people."

The reference to "all of South Africa's people" was interpreted by some diplomats yesterday as a criticism of the fact that the May election will be for whites only.

Dr Worrall could hardly have chosen a better time to resign than by timing his resignation to coincide with the announcement of the date for a white general election.

Cape Town buzzed with speculation yesterday, considered by political sources here to be well-founded, that Dr Worrall intends to stand as an independent candidate against the ruling National Party (NP).

It is thought that he may decide to pit his considerable debating and political skills against either the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, in the Cape constituency of Helderberg, or the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, in Port Natal.

The ambassador's decision to quit, reported as a strong possibility in a splash front page story in the *Cape Times*, was confirmed a few hours later by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr P. W. Botha.

Dr Worrall is a shrewd and ambitious man, and if he has decided to run as an independent, it is unlikely that he would have done so unless he reckoned he had a real chance. It is believed here that he may have been assured of financial backing in his election campaign from disgruntled Afrikaans and English businessmen who share his frustration with the slow pace of the government's movement away from apartheid.



Dr Denis Worrall at the South African embassy yesterday.

How the bell tolled for Milne

By Michael McCarthy

The tinkle of a spoon being tapped against a glass sounded the news to the senior executives of the BBC that Mr Alastair Milne, their director-general, had been summarily dismissed.

Mr Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the corporation's board of governors, used the technique of the best man at the wedding breakfast to call the BBC hierarchy to attention to listen to the announcement of their leader's fall.

As he stood up to speak on Thursday in the sixth floor executive suite at the BBC Television Centre in Shepherd's Bush, the audience listening before him consisted of two groups: the governors of the BBC, who were aware that Mr Milne was being fired; and the corporation's senior staff, who were not.

Mr Hussey quickly enlightened them. The director-general, he announced, "has resigned for personal reasons."

It was a dramatic end to a dramatic morning. For more than three hours 11 of the 12 governors (one was abroad on business) had sat through a board meeting with Mr Milne knowing what he had no inkling of at the close of business his head would be demanded on a platter.

They knew because the men who had decided to dismiss him, Mr Hussey and his vice-chairman, the former Labour minister, Lord Barmen, had told them so as they met for the informal gathering at 9 am that precedes the fortnightly governors' meeting at 9.30.

They were the three "national" governors: Dr James Kincaid, a Belfast headmaster (Northern Ireland); Mr Watson Peat, a Strathguthrie farmer (Scotland); and the newly-appointed Mr John Pary, a Brecon veterinary surgeon (Wales); the former British Ambassador to Moscow, Sir Curis Keeble, and the former general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Sir John Boyd; Miss Daphne Park, the principal of Somerville College, Oxford, Lady Parkes, wife of the vice-chancellor of Leeds

University, and Miss Jocelyn Barrow, a London educationist; and the Earl of Harewood. The remaining governor, Mr Malcolm McAlpine of the construction firm family, was away on business in the United States.

The full board meeting that followed is one these individuals are unlikely to forget.

They sat down with Mr Milne in the square conference room on the Television Centre's seventh floor, and for three hours and twenty minutes carried on with business as normal knowing the meeting was to be his last.

Senior members of the board of management who were present, including Mr Alan Protheroe, the assistant director-general, and Mr Michael Grade, the director of TV programmes, has as little idea as Mr Milne himself of what was about to happen.

It happened at ten minutes to one when the meeting finished. As the governors and senior staff went down to the sixth floor suite for lunch Mr Milne and Lord Barmen asked Mr Milne to remain behind and when the door had closed, ended his long BBC career.

It was being suggested in BBC circles yesterday that he was presented with a brutal ultimatum: resign at once, for "personal reasons", with full

Continued on page 22, col 2

Six lead race for top BBC 'new era' job

By Gavin Bell and Richard Evans

The BBC will spend thousands of pounds next week advertising for "suitably qualified" candidates to succeed Mr Alastair Milne as director-general.

The prevailing view is that the formal process may be a waste of time and money, since a short-list of six powerful contenders for arguably the most important job in broadcasting has already emerged.

However two positions may be at stake. The corporation is expected to break with tradition by devolving responsibility for programme output from the director-general to a new deputy.

Hence a new era of dual control of the BBC appears to be imminent, with an executive with financial and managerial skills backed up by someone with a strong editorial background.

The theory is that sharing the job would dilute the pressures that evidently contributed to Mr Milne's sudden departure on Thursday.

Two names emerged from intense speculation in BBC corridors yesterday as leading contenders.

They were Mr Michael Checkland, deputy director-general and the man now stepping in for Mr Milne, and Mr Brian Wenham, the head of radio.

Mr Checkland, aged 50, is an accountant who rose to his present position in 1985 from an already influential post as director of television resources.

He is said to have gained the admiration of senior executives with his managerial flair, and his resolve to adapt the corporation to rapid changes in technology.

In a letter to *The Times* last November, Mr Checkland took issue with suggestions that British institutions had much to learn about the management of change.

He noted that in the past year the BBC had negotiated a staff reduction of 2,000, and added: "We feel the BBC knows a little about the neces-

sity and art of managing change."

Mr Wenham, aged 49, comes from the more traditional editorial school, but it was he who co-ordinated the BBC's response to the Peacock inquiry.

Formerly a journalist with Independent Television News, he rose through the BBC ranks as editor of *Panorama*, head of current affairs, controller of BBC2 and director of television programmes.

Witty and amiable, he has successfully distanced himself from the corporation's frequent seizures of internal politicking.

A likely scenario would be his appointment as deputy director-general under Mr Checkland.

A third in-house candidate is Mr John Tusa, aged 50, a television presenter recently promoted to run the BBC's external services.

Mr Jeremy Isaacs, the chief executive of Channel 4, apparently leads a list of three "outsiders".

Mr Isaacs, aged 54, began in television with Granada, and had a brief and unsuccessful career with *Panorama* in the 1960s before moving back to independent television as controller of features at Thames.

He has since gained a reputation for making high-quality programmes, but has dismissed persistent speculation in the past that he was planning to return to the BBC.

Another candidate from independent television who would be popular among BBC producers is Mr Paul Fox, managing director of Yorkshire Television.

At the age of 61 he is the oldest contender, but has a wealth of both managerial and editorial experience.

Mr Fox is familiar with the BBC, having begun his career there as a news scriptwriter in the early 1950s, and spent several years as controller of BBC1.

The third "outsider" possibility, if the BBC can afford him, is Sir Alastair

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INSIDE

Four hurt by bomb in Belfast

Four policemen were slightly hurt when a car bomb exploded in Belfast yesterday afternoon, one of several attacks coinciding with the signature count by "Loyalists" on a petition calling for a referendum on the Anglo-Irish agreement.

A total of 395,752 signatures were obtained for the petition, which Unionist leaders will hand in at Buckingham Palace. Details page 2

Aquino acts

President Aquino of the Philippines has ordered the arrest of Brigadier General Joseph Zumal, who is believed to be one of those behind this week's attempted coup. Officers sought, page 7

IN PART

Joy for Swiss

Erika Hess started Swiss celebrations by winning the first gold medal of the world skiing championship in Crans Montana. Page 44

Oxford crisis

The beleaguered Oxford Boat Race president Donald Macdonald may face a vote of no-confidence from some college captains of boats. Page 46

Cup finale

Dennis Comer, the skipper of Stars & Stripes, and Iain Murray, his rival on Kookaburra III, begin the battle for the 1987 America's Cup. Fremantle today. Page 41

Work perk

Is it worth having a company car? Family Money assesses the value of this popular executive perk. Family Money, pages 28 to 40

Portfolio Gold

● There is £12,000 to be won today in *The Times* Portfolio Gold competition - £8,000 in the weekly competition and £4,000 in the daily.
● Yesterday's daily prize, which totalled £12,000 because there were no winners the previous two days, was shared by three readers. Details page 3.
● Portfolio lists pages 23 and 27.

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Ex-Bells chief tells of threats

By Thomson Prentice

Mr Raymond Miquel believes he has escaped the dirty tricks of big business, including the intimidation of his family.

The former chairman of Arthur Bell, the whisky company acquired by Guinness after a bruising fight 18 months ago, said yesterday: "I prefer to look forward, not back at what has happened."

Mr Miquel called in the police after his daughter's telephone was tapped during the takeover battle to tell him she was being followed and may be kidnapped.

Other "upsetting" telephone calls were received about the same time by other members of his family. Associates of the company in the US were also harassed.

Mr Miquel, who is now chairman and chief executive of the Bellhaven brewing and hotel company, would not discuss the incidents.

Mr Bill Walker, Conservative MP for the whisky-making constituency Tayside North, told *The Times* yesterday that he was followed on both sides of the Atlantic by what he took to be private investigators during the battle for Bells in 1985.

Takeover rules to be changed

The City Takeover Panel, the watchdog body which supervises company mergers, said last night that it believed there had been material and possibly deliberate breaches of its Code in the Guinness takeover of Distillers.

It appeared also that there may have been breaches of company law, said the Panel. Last night's statement was the first from the Panel since the Government appointed inspectors to investigate the affairs of the brewing giant.

In the light of the developments since then, the Panel is making significant changes to its rules which will demand greater disclosure of dealings during future takeovers.

The Stock Exchange and the Panel have stepped up their use of computer-based surveillance systems introduced since Big Bang last October and will monitor share dealings more actively during takeover bids. This comes after widespread criticism of the City's policing of takeovers by politicians and business leaders.

The rule changes will prevent the future use of nominee names to hide illicit dealings. These appear to have been used extensively during the Guinness affair.

Union negotiators will present them with details of talks held last night with British Telecom managers which sought a compromise on the entrenched positions both parties have adopted.

The union has been demanding a 10 per cent pay deal, backdated to last July, but the management has offered a package worth about seven per cent on condition the members accept changes in working practices.

Magazine claims Waite being held

By Juan Carlos Guzmán in Beirut and Nicholas Beeston in London

Lebanese media reports said yesterday that the Church of England's envoy, Mr Terry Waite, has been seen in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and one authoritative magazine claimed the envoy was being held against his will.

The weekly magazine, *ash-Shiraa*, published today, claims Mr Waite is being held to "force the United States and the West to respond to the demands of the captors."

The publication quotes Muslim leaders as saying Mr Waite has possibly been "abducted". Other sources in the article say Mr Waite is being held under house arrest and it quotes sources close to Muslim fundamentalists as saying Mr Waite's movements were limited by his "hosts".

Mr Waite apparently held talks in the area with Sheikh Sobhi Tufaili and Mr Sayed Hussein Mussawi, the head of Islamic Amal and one of the most radical Shia leaders in Lebanon.

Lambeth Palace said yesterday it was maintaining daily contact with highly-placed sources in Lebanon and that it continued to receive assurances about Mr Waite's well-being.

The independent *an-Nahar* newspaper and the Christian Voice of Lebanon radio said Mr Waite was seen in a convoy in the Bekaa Valley, near the town of Baalbeck.

lah barracks in Baalbeck, a former Lebanese Army base which houses a detachment of Iranian Revolutionary Guards and is suspected to be a prison for some of the 26 missing foreigners.

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Mr Milne yesterday: Brutal ultimatum from Mr Hussey

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Dollar rises sharply on deficit fall

The dollar rose sharply yesterday after the announcement of a big reduction in the US trade deficit. The pound fell by 2.75 cents to \$1.5120 on the news.

The US trade deficit narrowed to \$10.66 billion (£7 billion) last month from \$15.44 billion in November.

The dollar's rise, if sustained, will remove the need for an emergency meeting of the Group of Five.

Page 23

Students given 3.75 per cent grant increase

Students grants for 1987-88 are to go up by 3.75 per cent, in line with the forecast rise in inflation, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced yesterday.

For students living in London and away from home it means a rise in the full grant from £2,246 to £2,330.

The parental contribution has been raised an average 6.75 per cent.

Page 3

The King Size from Dunhill

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Health Departments' Chief Medical Officers

CRACK ONE-ON CRAM

Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

factors put out an *In Service* Activity Report to alert all users of similar aircraft to the problem.

In any one year dozens of such reports are issued and airline engineers are constantly building up a fund of knowledge about potential problems.

One of the main problems is in establishing precisely when metal fatigue is likely to set in. As aircraft are constantly pressurized and de-pressurized there is a strain on the millions of working parts and on the structure itself that, in time, can weaken the metal and eventually lead to cracks.

Regular checks, graded between A and D depending on the detailed nature of the inspections, are made for just such cracks. When they are found the part is replaced.

The BA 747 had flown for more than 61,000 hours and had made about 16,000 take offs and landings before the crack in the wing spar appeared.

Even so that was not regarded as cause for undue concern, although passengers would not be carried on the jet until it had been replaced.

After the Comet crashes in the 1960s much was learned about metal fatigue and a system of fail-safe manufacture was built in. It led to Boeing putting three main spars into each wing, although the aircraft could fly with one and certainly would be able to operate normally with two.

Each part is also made in such a way that cracks, if they do develop, cannot spread. That is known as a "crack stopper" and is designed to prevent cracks becoming potentially dangerous.

What engineers will be trying to establish now is whether there is evidence that very old aircraft are likely to face more cracks than they can see during the regular checks, and whether there is a finite life to any jet now flying.

Already Boeing has told airlines to check for hairline cracks around the nose section every 3,000 hours with a big detailed D check every 20,000 hours.

Each time one is found, and about ten a year are reported somewhere in the world, the already encyclopaedic store of knowledge about the way metal behaves is increased.

ing £28,940, and hotel maintenance staff £90,770. The all-industry average for female manual workers was £104.50.

In newspapers and publishing, women manual workers averaged an average of £126.30, in general printing and publishing £130.80, pharmaceuticals £130.50 and transport communications £139.30. Key male groups including electricity and gas workers, averaged between £205.30 and £207.70. Male low-earning groups included brewing workers on £150.50.

New Earnings Survey: Part C Analysis by Industry (Stationery Office: £3.95).

Actress's wait

The Court of Appeal reserved judgement yesterday in an appeal by Nina Myskovic, the *Sunday People* television critic, against the £10,000 "big bum" libel damages awarded to Charlotte Cornwall, the actress, who was labelled "wally of the week".

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Estate victim tells of 'revolution' cry before PC's killing

A leader of the disturbances screamed "it is fuel for the revolution" as a van was set alight on the Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham, north London, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Mr Victor Broughton, a builder, giving evidence for the prosecution at the trial of six people accused of murdering Police Constable Keith Blacklock, riotous assembly and affray, said he was told "go back home, it is not your war" as his Bedford van was seized by mobs.

Mr Broughton, aged 43, from Palmers Green, north London, was with his wife and son, aged 15, when they got caught up in the violence. They had planned to visit his daughter's boy friend on the Broadwater Farm estate.

But, as they arrived, a 30-strong crowd of masked youths pulled a car across the road ahead of them. While Mr Broughton pleaded to be allowed to drive away, the crowd started smashing his tyres.

The "frenzied" crowd was poking knives through the windows of the van and screaming at them to get out.

"I hesitated until we were sure we had a chance to get through the crowd, but as they became more frenzied, they were threatening to petrol

bomb the vehicle with us in it if we did not get out."

As they abandoned the van, Mr Broughton was forced at knifepoint against a wall. He was separated from his wife and son. His cigarette lighter was stolen and minutes later a vehicle near by was set ablaze.

Mr Broughton and his family were allowed to walk free. But before he left he asked the mob not to set fire to his van. He told them it was his living.

The leader replied: "Never mind, man, you will be all right with insurance."

Mr Broughton pointed out he was not insured for everything and the crowd's leader then told him: "Never mind, man, — it is fuel for the revolution."

When he returned to the scene the next day, he found his van "a virtual wreck."

The six on trial are Winston Silcott, aged 27, greengrocer, of Marlesham, Broadwater Farm estate; Mark Braithwaite, aged 29, unemployed, of Canonbury Villas, Islington; Engin Raghip, aged 20, unemployed, of Finsbury House, Partridge Way, Wood Green, all north London, and three juveniles, two aged 15 and one 16.

The youth aged 16 additionally denies making petrol bombs and throwing a petrol bomb, and Mr Raghip denies providing bottles to make petrol bombs.

Mr Trevor Abrahams, whose ground floor maisonette in Adams Road, Tottenham, was wrecked during the riots, said he watched helplessly as his home and car went up in flames.

He said he fled with his wife and two young children to a neighbour's house.

They decided not to try to escape on foot. "Shortly afterwards, my car was overturned and set on fire," he said.

He noticed that windows in his flat were broken and later when police led them away from the neighbour's house, Mr Abrahams' front bedroom was ablaze.

"I went back to my house the next day and it was a total wreck."

Det Sgt Colin Lockwood, of Scotland Yard's serious crimes squad, said the accused aged 16 told him during an interview that PC Blacklock's attackers chanted when a blood-stained knife was held aloft.

After the killing, a man identified in court only as "N" held up the knife and said: "This is Bullman's blood."

Sgt Lockwood said: "Bullman" was West Indian slang for the police.

The officer read notes of the interview in which the youth recalled seeing PC Blacklock being chased. His pursuers were shouting: "Kill him." The hearing continues.



Wally White (left) Jean Barnacle, Geoff Mills and Susan Kane (sitting) adding their own shine to another new Jaguar at the Coventry plant yesterday (Photograph: John Rogers).

Jaguar sales rise and shine

A Jaguar or Daimler deserves the sort of final hand polish and inspection that Wally, Jean, Geoff and Susan and the rest of their team give to every car that leaves the Coventry production line.

Output is now running at more than 1,000 a week, but still every car is carefully polished, and every finger mark removed, before being sprayed with a protective wax coating. That remains important as more than half Jaguar's production goes to North America.

While robots now help to weld the new XJ6 bodies together, Jaguar is recruiting new staff for the traditional skills of wood polishing and leather cutting.

Methadone verdict

Drugs ban order on doctor

The General Medical Council yesterday found Dr Ann Dally guilty of serious professional misconduct and forbade her to prescribe or possess controlled drugs for 14 months.

Professor Sir Herbert Duthie, committee chairman, said his decision was because of Dr Dally's "blatant failure to heed warnings" conveyed at her previous appearance before the committee in 1983 in relation to similar matters.

He gave her 28 days to appeal after which the no-controlled drugs order comes into effect.

After the hearing Dr Dally, aged 60, said: "I am very concerned about my patients. I may appeal. I will have a meeting next week to decide."

Her husband, Mr Philip Egerton, said: "It is an extraordinary decision. It shows how out of touch the GMC committee are with reality. It shows how little understanding of the problem of long-term drug-addiction they have."

Dr Dally was found guilty of "irresponsibly" supplying methadone to a patient in return for fees. She treated the man, identified only as Mr A, for three and a half years.

But she was cleared on a second similar charge relating to other patients. The hearing was told that a medical controversy about the treatment of long-term drug addicts was at the heart of the case against the Harley Street doctor.

Mr William Gage, QC, for

Dr Dally, added that she had "the misfortune" to get caught up in the dispute.

Mr Gage told the GMC the case against Dr Dally rested on controversial Department of Health and Social Security guidelines on the treatment of heroin addicts.

He said the guidelines represented a "school" of medical opinion which believes heroin addicts receiving the substitute drug methadone from doctors should have their doses reduced rapidly.

Treatment should last no longer than six months and should leave the patient drug free.

But Mr Gage said the guidelines were forcefully opposed by many doctors treating long-term heroin addicts.

Portfolio Gold Overdraft will be paid off

Mr James Mollett had no work yesterday so he bought *The Times*, did Portfolio Gold, and ended the day £4,000 richer.

Mr Mollett, who will be 27 next week, and lives at Upham Park Road, Chiswick, west London, said: "I have just finished a year of accountancy which I did not like, and now I am a temporary truck driver."

The win would allow him to pay off his overdraft and begin organizing overland trips for tourists, he said.

He shares the £12,000 prize, which had accumulated because there were no winners on Wednesday or Thursday.

Mr Ken Martin, aged 55, of Radger's Way, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire, was thrilled with his £4,000.

Yesterday's third winner was a Buckinghamshire woman who did not wish to be named.

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

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Blackburn
BB1 6AJ



Mr James Mollett will start organizing overland tours.

Student grants

Index-linked rise 'pathetic'

By Mark Dowd, Education Reporter

An increase in the student grant of 3.75 per cent for the next academic year, in keeping with the forecast rise in inflation, was condemned last night by the National Union of Students as "cruelly inadequate".

The increase, announced in the Commons by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, means that undergraduates living away from home in 1987-88 will receive £1,972. Students based in London receive an additional allowance, entitling them to a grant of £2,330, while those who pursue their studies and remain at home will get £1,567.

Parental contribution thresholds will rise by 6.75 per cent so that parents earning a residual income of less than £9,300 will no longer be assessed for contribution. They will, however, be expected to make a contribution

of £40, which is twice the present minimum.

The increase comes as a severe disappointment to students after an all-party committee of MPs had said in a report two weeks ago that there was an urgent need for an increase in real terms in student awards.

"We recommend that awards be increased above the general level of prices until the level approximates to the costs which students incur," the report had said.

Mr Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing North and a member of the select committee on education and science, said that the award confirmed the need for an index which would monitor the costs of books and other materials.

"Using the retail price index to calculate the level of grants is hopelessly inadequate," he said.

Miss Vicky Phillips, presi-

dent of the National Union of Students (NUS), said last night that she suspected the Government was deliberately depressing the value of grants in order to make the introduction of student loans more acceptable.

"This pathetically low increase will have about as much impact as a quick cloudburst on drought-stricken land," she said.

Inflation was likely to be nearer 5 per cent by the time the increase was paid in October, wiping out any short-term gain, she added.

NUS officials estimate that the value of the grant has declined by more than 20 per cent in real terms since 1979.

Although the Department of Education puts the figure at nearer 13 per cent, it did concede to the select committee before Christmas that the maintenance element in the mandatory award was insufficient.

The Government is conducting a review of student maintenance and its findings are expected later in the year, after more fact-finding visits to France, Sweden and Germany by Mr George Walden, Under-Secretary of State for Education.

STUDENT GRANTS 1987/88

	Undergraduate (£)	Postgraduate (£)
Hall or lodgings:		
London	2330 (2246)	3492 (3366)
Elsewhere	1972 (1901)	2858 (2756)
Parental home	1567 (1510)	2075 (2000)

Rates for 1986/87 in brackets.

Soldier is found dead at camp

A police and Army investigation was under way yesterday after a young soldier was found dead at his barracks in Kent.

Private Jeffrey Jagdith Singh, aged 17, who joined up five months ago, was found unconscious at the Sir John Moore barracks in Shorncliffe, near Folkestone. It is believed he was found hanging in lavatories at the barracks.

Police say they are treating his death as suspicious but are not looking for anyone else.

Private Singh, from Southall, west London, joined the junior infantry battalion of the Queen's Regiment in September.

It is the second time in two months the regiment has been affected by death. Last month Private Nicholas Burnup shot dead Corporal David Burnstead on a shooting range at Hythe, Kent, and then killed himself.

Private Burnup, who had been in the Army only six weeks, fired four pistol shots into the corporal's back and one into his head.

It was alleged that he had lost his temper with the corporal after being bullied. An inquest has yet to be arranged.

Most men help to wash up

By Robin Young

More than half the men in Britain help with the washing up, but fewer than four-fifths go shopping for groceries or use a vacuum cleaner. Barely a fifth wash clothes at home.

Those conclusions are drawn from a report prepared by RBL (Research International) Ltd for the Association of Market Survey Organizations.

Older men do more housework than the young. In the 45-54 age group, 61 per cent wash up — an increase of 9 per cent since last year. In the same age group an additional 8 per cent have taken to washing clothes at home, bringing the total to 19 per cent.

More than a fifth of a nationally representative sample of 1,008 men claimed to have done painting or decorating at home within the previous seven days. Yet only 8 per cent said they enjoyed the work. Similarly of the one fifth who claimed to have mended furniture or an appliance in the past week, only 4 per cent derived pleasure.

Most popular activities were working on the car (10 per cent) and gardening (26 per cent).

Dying man awarded £97,895

A welder who has been given a maximum of two years to live after contracting a deadly disease at work, was awarded £97,895 damages in the High Court yesterday.

Deputy Judge Kidwell, QC, making the award, said that Michael Jackson, aged 46, a father of two, must suffer "the agony of contemplating an early death and leaving his wife, children and grandchildren".

He is suffering from a "strange and terrible" condition called berylliosis, a form of breathlessness similar to asbestosis, after being exposed to beryllium fumes at his workplace from 1969 to 1979.

His former employers, Telcon Metals, of Manor Royal, Crawley, West Sussex, admitted liability, but had contested the amount of damages. They were ordered to pay the damages and costs.

The judge said Mr Jackson was practically confined to his home at Pine Court, Langley Green, Crawley. He was bitter with his former employers for "poisoning" him and when told by doctors he would soon be dead said: "It was like a kick in the teeth. You wonder how you are going to die. It is not easy to sleep at nights."

Boy forces change in tunnel Bill

Lobbying by a London schoolboy has forced a late change to the Channel Tunnel Bill and saved a wildlife haunt.

Lester Holloway, aged 16, gained the support of two MPs after bulldozers started tearing up heathland next to Wormwood Scrubs playing field, which is part of a mile-long haven for wildlife in central London.

The area is owned by British Rail and was earmarked as the site of a depot for Channel tunnel trains.

But now the Channel Tunnel Bill has been changed at the committee stage and no

work can begin on the land without consulting Hammer-smith council and the London Wildlife Trust.

Lester, a keen birdwatcher who is a pupil at Burlington Danes School, Shepherd's Bush, said: "The law allowed bulldozers to flatten part of the best wasteland in London, north of Little Scrubs, this month. It is high time politicians changed their ways."

"When I heard that Scrubs Wood was threatened, I compiled a detailed report on its wildlife. I sent it to everyone I could think of who might help me save the woods."

He lobbied the support of Mr Clive Soley, the MP for Hammer-smith, who also involved the Fulham MP, Mr Nick Raynsford.

Mr Raynsford praised Lester yesterday. He said: "This is wonderful. It has put a stop to any premature work by British Rail. All credit to him for his hard work and good sense."

But Lester has not finished yet. He said: "I want to apply for the area to be fully protected as a nature reserve. I'm going to lobby the House of Lords — specially members of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds."

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CONTINENTAL AIRLINES
NOW OVER HERE TO TAKE YOU OVER THERE

Top lawyer set to join Kinnock's Lords team

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Mr Alexander Irvine, QC, a leading authority on industrial relations law, is tipped to be one of five new Labour peers asked for by Mr Neil Kinnock.

The peerage would be a reward for Mr Irvine's work in helping the Labour Party to contest legal challenges in the High Court, such as the expulsion of supporters of Militant Tendency.

He would also be a leading contender for the post of Lord Chancellor if Labour wins the next general election.

Mr Irvine, who is aged 46, became a recorder in 1985 and was formerly a lecturer in law at the London School of Economics. In the 1970 general election he contested the marginal Conservative seat of Hendon North for Labour, but was beaten by the right-wing Mr John Goss.

If raised to the peerage, he could expect to become a frontbench spokesman within months.



Mr Alexander Irvine, seen as a contender for Lord Chancellor.

Another name put forward by the Labour leader to Mrs Margaret Thatcher is known to be Mr David Barnett, former general secretary of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union and former chairman of the TUC's general council.

Mr Kinnock and Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, Labour's leader in the Lords, are anxious to have a batch of younger working peers to help their front bench to take on the heavy legislative programme.

It is understood that letters have been sent from Downing Street to the five Labour and six Conservative supporters listed by Mrs Thatcher. The list is likely to be announced next month.

One of the Conservatives expected to be on the list is Sir Charles Johnston, aged 71, president of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations.

The Alliance leaders are furious that Mrs Thatcher is holding out against giving them any new peers, in spite of the support of Lord Whitlaw, Leader of the Lords, for the creation of at least one new Alliance peer to replace Lord Crawshaw of Aintree who died last summer.

The Prime Minister has created only two working Alliance peers, Lord Crawshaw and Lord Tordoff, during her time in office as against 23 Conservatives and 15 for Labour. In the honours list since 1979 she has created 67 Conservative, 27 Labour and seven Alliance peers.

Russians 'regard Labour as losers'

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

The Soviet leadership regards Mr Neil Kinnock's Labour Party as "foolish, unbelievable and losers", a Foreign Office minister claimed last night.

Mr Timothy Renton, who was in Moscow two weeks ago, said that if betting was allowed under the new open regime in the Soviet Union, he believed Mr Mikhail Gorbachev would be putting his money on a Conservative victory.

"Not because that is what he wants - Labour would be the soft option for the Kremlin - but because he doesn't believe the British are fools either."

Mr Renton, speaking to Conservative Party supporters in Nottingham, said the Soviet Union now respected Britain. Soviet leaders listened to British views on human rights and sought to get across their attitude on arms control.

"They do so because they regard us as a serious and worthwhile country bent on economic recovery, an influential member of the Western Alliance and a frank friend of the United States."

"You would think the Soviets would welcome Kinnock and company with open arms. Instead of going out of their way to invite the Prime Minister to Moscow this spring, they would be constantly rolling out the red carpet for the disarming trip of Kinnock, Healey and Denis Davies."

"Why don't they? First, they find them foolish, second, they find them unbelievable, third, they consider them losers."

No Soviet leader was going to disarm unilaterally. "So they find incredible the attitude of Labour leaders who say 'We are giving up Polaris and Trident'."



Dogged pursuit pays

Jacob, a German Shepherd that chased and caught a mugger and then forced the man to return a stolen handbag, with his owner, Mrs Betty Harris, yesterday.

The dog gave chase when Mrs Harris was punched to the ground by a man, who ran off with her handbag, when she was walking through a cemetery near her home in Wallasey, Merseyside. Mrs Harris, aged 43, a mother of two, ran home to her husband, Michael.

Within minutes the dog arrived back carrying Mrs Harris's stolen shoulder bag, with its contents intact.

Mrs Harris, of Sandrock Road, said that she had been returning home after a dog-training session with Jacob.

January 30 1987

PARLIAMENT

Flexible hours Bill fails

PUBLIC HOUSES

A Bill to introduce more flexibility into public house licensing hours in England and Wales failed to get a second reading in the Commons when the Deputy Speaker, Mr Ernest Armstrong, rejected a move to put the Bill to a vote.

There had been only one hour and 40 minutes debate on the Licensing (Amendment) Bill when its mover, Mr Allan Stewart, called for a vote.

The Bill would have enabled public houses and clubs in England and Wales to open for flexible hours during the period 10.30am to 11.30pm, as permitted by licensing magistrates.

MPs in favour of the Bill protested that 10 speakers had been called, but the ruling stood and the Bill was adjourned until March 27 when it will have little chance of debate or acceptance. Mr Allan Stewart (Eastwood, C), said in moving second reading that it was a long time since the House had considered a Bill which would create 25,000 and 50,000 new jobs as well as benefiting tourism and the economy.

Evidence of the experiment in Scotland showed that cases of drunkenness and related offences had declined.

Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said that the Government favoured a liberalisation of the licensing laws in England and Wales and did not wish to oppose the Bill, but if it reached the committee stage, amendments might be necessary to reduce resource cost implications.

Throughout England and Wales there were 122,000 licences and registered premises which could apply for variation orders and it was a reasonable assumption that about 75 per cent would seek to do so, occupying a lot of court time. Substantial burdens would also be imposed on the police.

The Government would not wish to do anything which would exacerbate the incidence of alcohol abuse and the death and injury caused by drunken driving, domestic violence and criminal offences committed under the influence of alcohol. Mr Alfred Dubs, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said he would have preferred any relaxation to be part and parcel of an overall approach to tackling alcohol abuse.

Mr Stanley Crowther (Rotherham, Lab), supporting the Bill, said he deplored the hysterical campaign mounted against it in recent weeks. Much of the opposition was based either on deliberate lies or on evidence which was, to say the least, dubious.

The House would be open to the charge of double standards if the Bill were turned down. Their own bar, into which MPs could take guests, was open all hours for as long as the House sat.

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C), opposing the Bill, said it would extend drinking hours. It must be viewed against a background of alcohol abuse, especially among adolescents, and increases in under-age drinking.

The debate was adjourned.

Stewart: More than 25,000 new jobs

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The debate was adjourned.

Car firm's cutback is 'butchery'

Plans to get rid of 1,000 workers at Austin Rover were described as 'butchery' after Mr Geoffrey Pattee, Minister for Information Technology, told MPs that the call for voluntary redundancies and early retirements was a matter for the company and that it would not be appropriate for the Government to comment.

The company, he said, must be free to determine employment levels in line with market provision and the need to be competitive.

Mr Terence Davis (Birmingham Hodge Hill, Lab) said that the announcement was contrary to the impression given by Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, on Wednesday.

Were Mr Graham Day, company chairman, and the Government setting for an Austin Rover share of 15 to 16 per cent of the total British market and a production level of 450,000 cars a year, instead of trying to get sales back to 20 per cent of production back to 650,000 cars a year?

One in 10 of Austin Rover staff would lose their jobs as a direct result of the decision, said Mr Day and the Government. How many more redundancies had yet to be announced? Would the corporate plan be published to allow the House to see the true scale of the cuts proposed by Mr Day with the blessing of the Government?

Mr Davis denied that there was a defeatist attitude by the Government or Mr Day. The corporate plan was at present being studied.

Mr Donald Dixon (Harrow, Lab) said that the sooner Mr Day was sacked the better it would be for the motor car industry.

Mr Francis said in response to Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) that people were not buying British in sufficiently large numbers because they were not satisfied with the quality, design, the product itself or the after-sales service.

Crossbow 'fun'

A Bill restricting the sale of crossbows to young people was welcomed by the Government and given an unopposed second reading in the Commons.

The Crossbows Bill, introduced by Mr Peter Braine (Leicester East, C), makes it an offence to sell a crossbow to a person under the age of 17, or for youngsters under that age to be in possession of, or use, such weapons.

Mr Braine said that some of the Rambo exploits in Vietnam had given the weapon a glamorous image, which together with names like Wildcat, Trident, Foxfire and Bandit, made it attractive to youngsters. There was even a "family fun" version.

firing rubber tipped bolts which was advertised: "shoot at your favourite politician on television, remarkably accurate".

The maximum penalty for selling a crossbow to someone under 17 would be up to six months imprisonment, a fine up to £200, or both. Anyone under 17 buying a crossbow could be fined up to £400.

Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said that a Home Office review showed that in 1985-86 there were 150 cases of offences involving crossbows. So far as could be judged from statistics, the misuse of crossbows was at a fairly low level.

Spy film resurrects privilege issue

The privileges of the House of Commons were being prejudiced because the Government did not intend to seek an injunction to prevent screening of the controversial BBC film about the Zircon project, Mr Alan Williams, a Labour spokesman on House of Commons affairs, said.

He was seeking a Government statement about its current position on the film, which is the subject of a ruling by the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) that it should not be shown in the Commons premises. The film, however, is to be shown in Cardiff, this weekend.

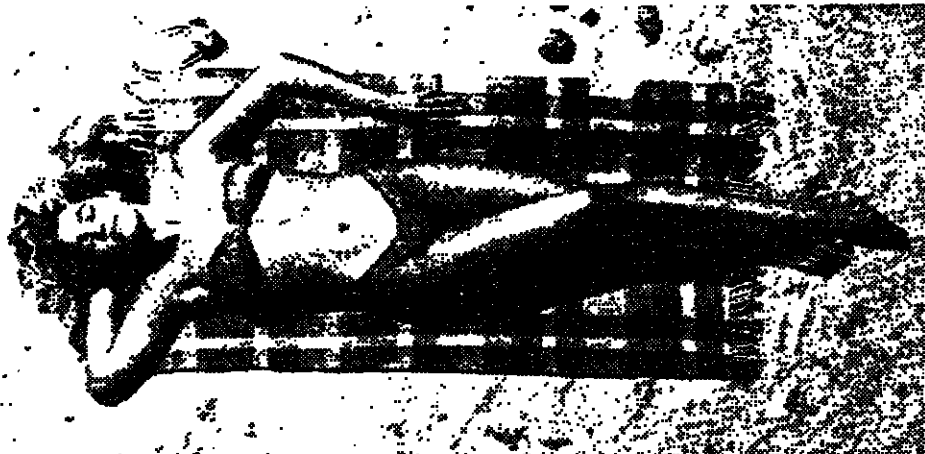
The matter is being considered by the Select Committee on Privileges. The Government obtained an injunction preventing Mr Dominic Campbell, who compiled the film, from writing or speaking about its contents and the Speaker has indicated that his ban stands unless that injunction is lifted, until the House reconsiders the matter when the select committee reports.

Mr Williams said that the Opposition had supported the Government in efforts to suppress any possible security breaches in relation to the film. Mr Nigel Spearing (Newham South, Lab): It is the responsibility of the Government to apply the injunction to the principle or withdraw it.

Mr Spearing said that the matter was in the hands of the House which had debated it on Tuesday. "It is now in the hands of the Privileges Committee and my direction remains until the House has debated the matter or the injunction is withdrawn."

Mr Peter Sheehy, Opposition chief spokesman on Commons affairs, reiterated the demand for a Government statement. Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, heard the exchanges but did not intervene.

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In between I managed to fit in beaches at St. Tropez, Barcelona and Ibiza - mind you I needed a beach most days to catch up on sleep!

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Last stop was Gibraltar. For once I didn't go to the beach. By the time I'd climbed to the top of the Rock and seen the apes I was too exhausted even for that.

Then it was back to Southampton with my new friends. The worst thing was having to say goodbye to them all when we finally got off.

Still, I'll be seeing them again. Next year!"

Fiona Rogers, 27.

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Carrot may be used with the stick to avoid jail troubles

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

New measures to tackle the cause of trouble in jails are being examined by a Home Office working group, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said yesterday in a wide-ranging speech on prison policy.

Until now, British jails have been unusual in relying on loss of privileges and remission, but that has failed to prevent disruption. The approach now being examined is to provide incentives to good behaviour: the carrot as well as the stick.

Mr Hurd expressed concern about wide variations between counties in the use of bail and the Home Office Research and Planning Unit is to study why this happens.

"We need to ensure that remands in custody are used

consistently and as sparingly as is envisaged in the Bail Act," he told Bristol University Conservative Association.

The steep rise in the remand population of prisons is a cause for real concern, Mr Hurd said. The increase had helped to boost numbers in prison at the beginning of 1987 to 2,000 more than the year before.

There were 8,844 untried prisoners in jails at the end of November, compared with an average figure during 1981 of 4,804, and they now account for a fifth of the population.

"In the context of considering whether, for reasons of efficiency and good sense, the maximum period of remand without a court appearance should be increased to 21 or

28 days, I shall be looking at practice more generally in this area."

Mr Hurd said the swelling of the remand figure was largely because of increased pressures on the courts—between 1979 and 1985, the number of cases before the crown court rose by 65 per cent—and he hoped to introduce in April next year a nationwide scheme for time limits for courts after earlier field trials.

The Prosecution of Offences Act provided for statutory time limits so that prosecutors brought cases to court as quickly as possible or risked having to drop the case. "We are still evaluating how best time limits can be implemented across the country."

Making sure there are no more unsentenced prisoners in custody than necessary is one of Mr Hurd's two main strategies for dealing with the prison population increase. The other is the building programme.

Mr Hurd said he did not believe the way to reduce numbers in jails was to tell the courts whom they might send to prison or for how long. Nor would it be sensible to widen the gap between sentence and the actual time served or, except in a real emergency, to contemplate any arbitrary system of executive release.

"I do not accept the suggestion that we can devise an arbitrary figure which, in principle, represents the 'right' level of imprisonment; or that in England and Wales we have exceeded such a theoretical level."

Concern for rights of prisoners on remand

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Cost cutting planned by the Government will affect the rights of remand prisoners, the Howard League for Penal Reform says today.

The league "unequivocally opposes the proposal to extend the maximum period for which magistrates may ordinarily remand a person into custody from eight to 28 days without a court appearance".

In a reply to a government consultation paper, the league says: "A person who has not been convicted of an offence has a right to be seen and heard frequently to appeal for their freedom."

The arguments proposed in

the paper are "entirely financial. Cost cutting is seen as advantageous, while other issues are ignored. The proposal is an attack on the legal aid system and budget. The majority of the savings envisaged (£3 million) would come from legal aid."

The league says the 130 per cent increase in people held in prison awaiting trial since 1975 is mainly because of delays in dealing with cases. In 1985, the average time spent in prison was 55 days, as opposed to 25 days in 1975. Nearly a third of remand prisoners were given a non-custodial sentence in the end, and 4 per cent were acquitted.

Challenge to case heard in private

The crown prosecution service is to make a High Court application against a three months driving ban imposed in a drink-drive case which magistrates heard behind closed doors.

The bench at Malvern, Worcestershire, aroused controversy when it agreed to a defence application for the case to be heard in private.

The magistrates took the unusual decision after hearing that the defendant had at one

time been close to suicide.

After the hearing the press was readmitted and told that Celia Hyland, aged 41, a nurse, of Wells Road, Malvern, had been disqualified from driving for three months and fined £200, although the court sheet showed her breath-test reading to have been nearly twice the legal limit.

Yesterday Miss Judith Kenney, the West Mercia Southern Branch prosecutor for the crown prosecution

service, said she had lodged an application with the divisional court.

"The application deals with whether there were special reasons for reducing the period of disqualification from the normal 12 months to three months," she said.

Mr Dennis Clare, clerk to the magistrates, said yesterday that there was no Act or statute to which he could refer which supported the magistrates' decision.



Mr Peter Adcock, a marshman, using a spiked comb to dress the Norfolk reeds which have been harvested from Hickling Broad and Cley Marshes. There were fears that the heavy snows could have left the crop useless, but the reeds were buried and escaped damage. Mr Adcock, one of six marshmen employed by the Norfolk Naturalists Trust to harvest 500 acres of reed, is removing grass and weeds from the reeds before stacking. A rice harvester has been converted to cut the reeds which are a valuable source of income for the Trust (Photograph: Nick Rogers).

Coastline walk takes 48 weeks

A secretary will stroll on to Brighton pier today exactly 11 months after she set off from the same spot to walk clockwise around the coast of Britain.

Averaging just over 100 miles a week, Miss Helen Krasner, aged 38, of Croydon, south London, has completed the 5,000-mile journey without particular difficulty in spite of enduring some of the worst winter weather this century.

"I managed to hit Kent exactly when the big freeze struck," Miss Krasner said as she approached her destination at a leisurely pace.

"The day it started I was walking between Rochester and Sittingbourne and the weather forecast said there were going to be a few showers. It ended up snowing from eight in the morning till twelve at night."

A committee led by Mrs Jackie Lithell, Mayor of Brighton, will greet the intrepid walker, prompting a distinct sense of déjà vu, although another mayor was holding the office when she was waved off with similar pomp 48 weeks ago.

Overseas doctors 'unequal' in NHS

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Unequal treatment in the health service of overseas and British trained doctors with broadly similar professional qualifications is disclosed in a study published by the Commission for Racial Equality.

Overseas doctors are concentrated in lower grades and unpopular specialties, notably geriatrics, accident and emergency, and psychiatry.

Only 19 per cent of consultants are from overseas. Yet one third of hospital doctors in the National Health Service in 1981 are estimated to have been born overseas and had obtained their basic medical qualifications before coming to the UK. Most were from Commonwealth countries and Pakistan.

When asked if there was discrimination against overseas doctors in the health service, 35 per cent of British trained consultants compared with 58 per cent of overseas consultants felt there was.

The study shows overseas doctors have to make more applications for posts than British counterparts: 64 per

cent of white doctors compared with 15 per cent of overseas doctors made only one application.

The commission says the differences emerge more sharply in figures for those doctors who have made more than 10 applications: 31 per cent of all overseas doctors did so compared with a nil percentage of white British doctors.

National figures for 1981-85 confirm the commission says that overseas doctors are over-represented in locum posts, stay in them longer, and have fewer promotion prospects.

Poor training opportunities have ensured the relegation of overseas doctors to the lower grades and the least popular specialties. Those doctors who were white and had all their training in Britain were twice as likely as overseas doctors to feel career expectations had been fulfilled.

Among its recommendations, the commission says the DHSS should issue revised guidance to regional and district health authorities on avoiding direct and indirect discrimination.

Library cost up by £25m

By Gavin Bell

The Government is investigating the management of a big British Library building project, after learning that its first stages will cost at least an extra £25 million.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, said the initial construction costs for the building in St Pancras, central London, had been estimated in 1979 at £116 million. That represented £193 million at 1986 prices.

The estimate, and others in the intervening period, had not made sufficient provision for inflation. The revised estimates now stood at £218 million at 1986 prices.

In a parliamentary written answer, Mr Luce said: "The Government is reviewing arrangements for the management of the project and improved arrangements will be introduced as soon as possible."

An additional £19.5 million would be provided over the next three years to make up the shortfall. A revised total of £237.5 million would be spent over this period.

Postman's blues bring red letter day

Mr Harold Raymond, a retired postman of Ashburton, Devon, left his entire estate, valued at £50,000, to his cousin and neighbour, Mr Eric Worsley.

He explained: "It is to recognize the great debt I owe him for having put up with my mood and temper for the past 50 years."

Mr Worsley said yesterday: "I would rather remember the good times. Generally he was a very nice chap."

Other wills, page 20

Knifeman sent to Broadmoor

Terence Barnard, who was convicted last December of the attempted murder of a woman anaesthetist, was committed to Broadmoor on an interim 12-week hospital order when he appeared at Lincoln Crown Court yesterday.

Barnard, aged 20, of Pevensey Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, will appear in court again in March. In June last year he attacked Mrs Irene Hall while she was walking on the Sussex Downs, leaving part of a knife blade embedded in her spine.

Pupils defend jury challenge

A petition signed by 500 pupils and students at four Inns of Court was presented to the Commons yesterday.

The petition — from pupils and students at the Middle Temple, Inner Temple, and Gray's and Lincoln's Inns — urged the Commons to "protect the right of peremptory challenge which is being questioned in the Government's Criminal Justice Bill".

Forest killer jailed for life

A killer whose victim lay hidden in a forest for seven weeks was given a life sentence at Newcastle Crown Court yesterday.

Frank Wilkinson, aged 39, had denied battering to death Alan Raffle, a horse dealer aged 23, with a hammer after luring him from his caravan in New York, north Tyneside. Edward Wood, of Charlotte Street, North Shields, was cleared.

SUNDAY



The application form and details of the offer will be published in the newspapers this Sunday, February 1st. They are also available in British Airways travel shops. The closing date for applications is 10am, Friday, February 6th.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Libel suit settled over Plath film

New York — A Harvard psychiatrist who claimed she had been libellously portrayed as a suicidal lesbian by the late poet Sylvia Plath in her 1963 autobiographical work *The Bell Jar* has agreed to a settlement with the makers of a 1979 film of the book (Charles Bremner writes).

The out-of-court settlement on Thursday came on the sixth day of a trial in Boston that writers feared could lead to curbs on their freedom to draw on real life as a basis for their fiction.

Lawyers for Dr Jane Anderson, aged 55, agreed to drop their action against 14 defendants, including Mr Ted Hughes, Britain's Poet Laureate, and the film's producers, in return for \$150,000 (£100,000) damages and an admission that the film unintentionally defamed her "in that it coincidentally but falsely seems to portray her as having homosexual inclinations... and as a person who committed suicide by hanging."

Mr Hughes, who was Miss Plath's husband and administers her estate, said through his lawyer that he was satisfied with the outcome.

Falklands rescue

British forces on the Falkland Islands have come to the rescue of some 300 elderly Americans marooned there (PA reports).

Their luxury liner, the *Rotherdam*, put in at Port Stanley yesterday for passengers to inspect the scene of the 1982 war. But the weather became rough and the ship had to be towed to safer waters.

The tourists, unable to board their vessel, were billeted overnight on Coastal 3 — the barge home of about 300 men of the First Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Medal for Speakes

Washington — President Reagan yesterday bestowed the Presidential Citizen's Medal on Mr Larry Speakes, his White House spokesman, who departed after six years in his post to become a director of communications for a Wall Street investment house (Michael Binyon writes).

In a private White House ceremony, Mr Reagan gave him the medal in recognition of his having "faithfully served the cause of truth." He called Mr Speakes a man "cool under pressure," who had served the cause of America.

ETA bomb injures 40

Madrid — A Spanish Army major and a civilian bus driver were killed and more than 40 others, 28 of them Army personnel, were injured yesterday by a car bomb which went off in the centre of Saragossa (Richard Wigg writes).

The early morning attack in the old part of the city was taken to be the "reply" by ETA, the Basque separatist organization, whose "Spain Commando," blamed for many murderous attacks, was spectacularly broken up in Madrid a fortnight ago. The target was a passing Army bus taking officers and aces to the Saragossa Military Academy. The civilian driver was killed instantly and the major, of the academy's teaching staff, died shortly afterwards in hospital. The civilians hurt were passers-by. The bomb had been placed in a small van. The blast damaged a dozen other vehicles in an 800-yard range. More than a dozen car bomb attacks have been mounted by ETA since 1982.



Smiling patient?

Los Angeles — Illness was this week blamed for the Mona Lisa's crooked smile, left (Ivor Davies writes). Dr Kedar Adour, a Californian, claimed the smile may have been caused by Bell's Palsy, a condition that occurred during pregnancy.

Writer 'intimidated'

Hong Kong — Mr Lawrence MacDonald, a US reporter working for Agence France Presse, said yesterday that Chinese government allegations that he had abused his position in Peking to gather illicit information were "groundless and absurd" (David Bonavia writes).

Mr MacDonald declined to answer questions on arrival here but said the Peking authorities were trying to "intimidate" foreign journalists. He is the fourth correspondent to be expelled in the past few years.

He said he "resented being made a pawn in Chinese politics" — evidently a reference to speculation here that expulsion of foreign correspondents is part of an internal power struggle involving the security organs.

Mr Georges Blaum, the regional director of Agence France-Presse, said that Mr MacDonald's expulsion was a "flagrant violation of the right to information."

Waite's whereabouts still a mystery

Escorts can only wait and see

From Juan Carlos Gumucio Beirut

Mr Terry Waite's abandoned escorts are playing cards or strolling in front of the Riviera Hotel with a barely perceptible mixture of impatience and a little concern. There is no trace of alarm, but an enigmatic wait-and-see stance which has brought profit to a few coffee vendors, busy under umbrellas that have long ago lost their colours.

Mr Waite's bodyguards have not given a specific reason for the sense of reassurance that discreetly prevails among their leaders in the Progressive Socialist Party of Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader in Lebanon.

Perhaps it is the record of the PSP in looking after foreigners in the chaos of west Beirut which can be of advantage to Mr Waite in his latest mission.

Others factors leading to the deal included: a reappraisal of US policy towards Iran beginning in late 1984, with emphasis on building a constructive relationship with moderate elements in Iran; Israel's strong and continuing interest in furthering contacts with Iran; and "efforts on the part of private parties, including international arms dealers and others."

However, the report did not resolve a conflict among Administration officials over whether President Reagan gave prior approval to Israel to make the first shipments of arms in August, 1985, several months before he signed an order last January officially authorizing arms shipments directly from the US.

It was the first official document released by investigators into the arms deals and diversion of profits to Nicaragua rebels since the scandal surfaced last November.

But the report is only preliminary and incomplete because the two key witnesses, Vice-Admiral John Poindexter, the former National Security Adviser, and his assistant, Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, have so far refused to testify.

● BAGHDAD: Iraq said yesterday its warplanes attacked two Iranian cities in retaliation for shelling of its towns and vowed to press home such raids until Tehran accepted a just solution to their conflict (Reuters reports).

A military spokesman said jets pounded targets in Tabriz and in Shiraz. All aircraft returned to base.

This was the first raid on Shiraz since Iraq began regular air strikes on targets in the so-called "war of the cities" following Iran's January 9 thrust on the southern front. Iran says more than 2,000 people have been killed and 7,000 wounded in Iraqi air and missile raids this month.

● BAGHDAD: Iraq said yesterday its warplanes attacked two Iranian cities in retaliation for shelling of its towns and vowed to press home such raids until Tehran accepted a just solution to their conflict (Reuters reports).

Botha sets date for white general election

From Michael Hornsby Cape Town

South Africa's white voters will go to the polls on Wednesday, May 6, in the first general election to the House of Assembly, the white chamber of Parliament, for six years, and the ninth since 1948 when the National Party (NP) began its uninterrupted four decades of office.

It also seems likely to be the first election to be held under a state of emergency since the Second World War. The Government could still decide to suspend the emergency before the election campaign begins but there is no sign that it intends to do so.

President Botha, who announced the polling date yesterday in a speech opening the 1987 session of Parliament, said "incidents of unrest" had declined since the nation-wide emergency was declared last June but then added:

"The revolutionary climate, however, necessitates the continued maintenance of these measures of control."

It remains to be seen how much freedom of speech MPs will be permitted during the campaign and how much latitude will be granted to journalists reporting it, especially in view of wide-ranging new censorship powers conferred on General Johan Coetzee, the Commissioner of Police, on Thursday.

In an oddly lacklustre speech which contained little new other than the election date, Mr Botha called on South Africans to "stand united against the spirit of revolution incited against us from abroad," and to resist "unlawful and unwarranted interference in our domestic affairs."

An appeal to xenophobia is likely to be one of the main themes of Pretoria's election campaign. The image of a strong government, refusing to be hurried into rash action by a hostile and uncompromising outside world, has proved attractive to white voters in the past.

Although no one seriously expects the NP to be removed from power on May 6, the party will face a real challenge from both the right and the left for the first time since 1948, and could see its majority in the House of Assembly (see table) whittled down.

It will be the first nationwide test of the strength of the extreme-right wing Conservative Party, whose 18 MPs broke away from the NP in 1982 in protest against Mr Botha's cautious relaxation of apartheid and the creation of parliamentary chambers for the Indian and Coloured (mixed-race) minorities.

To the left of the NP, a strong challenge is expected from the Progressive Federal Party (PFP), which has entered into an electoral pact with the much smaller New Republic Party (NRP). This should enable each party to concentrate its resources on those constituencies it has the best chance of winning.

There are also signs of disintegration on the verlig (enlightened), or reformist wing of the NP. The latest evidence was the resignation yesterday of Dr Denis Worrall as South Africa's ambassador in London, and speculation that he might stand as an independent candidate in the election.

Earlier this month, Mr Wynand Malan, a reformist government MP for the Randburg constituency, near Johannesburg, resigned from the NP and announced that he would campaign as an independent because of Pretoria's slowness in repealing the remaining apartheid laws.

House of Assembly, January 30, 1987

Party	Cape	Natal	OPS	TVL	Nom	IE	Total
NP	42	10	13	51	4	6	126
PFP	11	6	-	9	-	1	27
PPF	2	-	-	15	-	-	17
NRP	1	4	-	-	-	-	5
HNP	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
IND	-	-	-	7	-	-	7
TOTAL	56	20	14	76	4	8	178

Note: Five NP seats (2 in the Transvaal and 3 in the Cape) and one CP seat in the Transvaal are currently vacant.

Results of 1981 general election.

Registered voters: 2,290,527 Valid votes cast: 1,364,776

Party	votes polled	%	seats
NP	777,555	57.0	142
PFP	285,197	19.4	27
NRP	192,214	14.1	2
HNP	106,766	7.8	8
NCP	19,149	1.4	0
Others	8,885	0.3	0
TOTAL	1,364,776	100.0	177

Note: Since 1981 the Walvis Bay enclave in Namibia, which is considered to be legally part of South Africa, has been declared a separate constituency, increasing the number of seats in the House of Assembly to 178.

KEY: OPS Orange Free State, TVL Transvaal, Nom nominated, IE indirectly elected, NP National Party, PFP Progressive Federal Party, CP Conservative Party, NRP New Republic Party, HNP Herstigte Nasionale Party, IND Independent, NCP National Conservative Party (which has since merged with the Conservative Party).

Man in the News

Worrall's shoes hard to fill

By Nicholas Beeston

The Pretoria Government will be hard pressed to find a replacement to match its outgoing envoy, Dr Denis Worrall, who has fought an impressive rearguard action against opponents of apartheid in Britain during his three-year tour of duty in London.

The seasoned diplomat, regarded as South Africa's most able spokesman overseas, announced his resignation amid speculation that he hopes to run in the whites-only elections in May, possibly as a candidate for President Botha's National Party.

After nearly three years in London Dr Worrall, aged 51, established as an eloquent speaker and able debater, can look forward to returning to South Africa with the reputation of a man not intimidated by the growing protests against apartheid in Britain and the West.

Although regularly summoned to the Foreign Office to explain the actions of his Government and security forces, he has managed to field the mounting criticism and has on occasion counter-attacked with publicity drives of his own.

Once described by the Liberal Party leader, Mr David Steel, as a "plausible apologist," Dr Worrall has initiated some unorthodox publicity stunts in the past two years, including sending "information packages" about South Africa to all Social Democratic Party members before their party conference in Harrogate and accepting an invitation to discuss apartheid and sanctions with the leaders of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

His public style has sometimes embarrassed the Government and in June last year he gave the Opposition ammunition when he praised Mrs Thatcher's controversial stand on South Africa.

Besieged in his office by protesters demanding an end to apartheid, Dr Worrall explained that his aim in Britain was to "raise the level of debate about South Africa."

Before entering public life in 1974, he received a PhD at Cornell University in the United States and lectured on political science at a number of universities in South Africa, the US and Nigeria.

After seven years in the South African Parliament, first as a Senator for the Cape Province, then as an MP for the constituency of Gardens in Cape Town for the National Party, he was appointed chairman of the Constitutional Committee of the President's Council in 1980.

His next posting, as Ambassador to Australia, was caused by a rift between Dr Worrall, on the left wing of the party, and hardline Nationalists over elements in the new constitution.

Although an ardent supporter of the Afrikaner-dominated National Party, Dr Worrall is believed to have pressed for black representation in the constitution, which ultimately only gave partial electoral rights to Coloureds and Asians.

Dr Worrall is married and has three sons.

Anti-apartheid rugby star faces jail

From Ray Kennedy Johannesburg

One of three prominent South African sporting brothers who have achieved local notoriety over their opposition to the white-dominated rugby football establishment was sentenced to an effective two and a half years' imprisonment yesterday for arson and fraud.

Valence Michael Watson, aged 34, was convicted of setting fire to the family home in Port Elizabeth and of trying to defraud insurance companies of about £184,000 to pay off business debts.

On Thursday his two brothers, Ronald, aged 35, and Daniel, aged 32, were acquitted of conspiring with him in the crimes and also of attempted murder. It had been alleged that they plotted to leave two Africans they had instructed to set fire to the house trapped inside the blazing building.

The Watson brothers, all prominent rugby players in the Eastern Cape province, decided publicly several years ago to desert the white-dominated South African Rugby Board and play for clubs affiliated to the anti-apartheid South African Rugby Union.

Valence Watson was granted bail pending an appeal yesterday after his counsel told Mr Gert Steyn, president of the Port Elizabeth regional court, he had strong personal convictions and was prepared to take a stand on them.

One of the principal state witnesses, Mr Geoffrey Mccanda, claimed in earlier evidence that he confessed to arson only after he was tortured by the security police.

He said he had had intensive discussions with Mr Mugabe over human rights in Zimbabwe, specifically the cases of two former senior Customs officers who have been in detention since last February as alleged spies.



President Botha stands at attention at the opening of Parliament in Cape Town yesterday amid the traditional military pomp and ceremony.

Mulroney hopes for dialogue

From Jim Smith Ottawa

Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister who hosts the next Commonwealth summit, hinted here yesterday that the Commonwealth Eminent Persons' Group, would again be used in an initiative on South Africa.

The concept of the function of the group "has not been abandoned," he told a press conference here shortly before ending a four-day visit to Zimbabwe.

Unlike the Rhodesian constitutional crisis, where brain was used as a conduit for dialogue, no such channel existed in South Africa, he said. "That is why we believe the Eminent Persons' Group will be particularly useful, perhaps coming at it in a different way to ensure that those who wish for the role of dialogue will have someone with whom to speak."

The group concluded last June after an intensive study of the South African racial conflict that Pretoria was not interested in negotiations.

The report led to the mini-summit of seven Commonwealth leaders in August which recommended that member states voluntarily adopt a package of 11 sanctions against South Africa.

Canada, Australia and New Zealand have implemented most of the sanctions, with Ottawa giving the recommendations a more aggressive interpretation.

He said he had had intensive discussions with Mr Mugabe over human rights in Zimbabwe, specifically the cases of two former senior Customs officers who have been in detention since last February as alleged spies.

Glimpse behind the waspish pen of a possible President

An ageing President, with a staff "superb at constructing a cocoon of euphoria around him," a Vice-President, a "wimp and a fool," who was going to get the party nomination in the summer but was known to have a "spine made out of oatmeal," a manic, hardline Secretary of Defence, ever resentful of the smooth, eastern establishment Secretary of State and his belief in arms negotiations, military chiefs with their locker-room talk and enthusiasm for Star Wars, arms control negotiators wearily repeating untenable positions...

It sounds eerily familiar. Add an eternal Soviet Foreign Minister, "a grey fox" with flawless political instincts who had worked in the UN, London and Washington and served every Kremlin leader since Stalin, a Slesov-like Kremlin ideologue, elderly, gaunt and fanatical, an attractive Soviet translator at the fruitless Geneva talks, an American negotiator opposed to the hardliners taking the world to the brink of World War III... and you have the ingredients of a rollicking political thriller.

Indeed that is what *The Strategies of Zeus* is. Of course there are the clichés — the Russians fearful of their own eavesdropping bugs and the Gulag, the good Montana liberal thinking of nuclear holocaust and his beloved daughter, the savvy White House correspondent who uses her charm to hop into the car of the National Security Adviser and tease out some secrets. And perhaps some of the writing is a bit flat.

But the world ought to start reading the book quickly. For it is written by a man who might well soon have to deal

with these very issues, not in fiction, but for real — a possible future President of the United States, Gary Hart.

The former Colorado senator has some waspish observations. On the model for the President — "over the years he had made amiability into an art form. He had traded God 10 IQ points for his grin — and won, at least politically, in the

Washington View

By Michael Binyon

bargains" on the Vice-President — "a man who operated consistently so far beyond his limitations he had forgotten where they were;" on the Defence Secretary, "a cauldron of resentments," whose "insecurity knew no bounds."

The preface insists "this is a work of fiction," and says any similarity to actual events or persons is "entirely coincidental." But few readers will be deceived. As early as page 29 Hart makes it clear the hero is himself: "a third-generation Montana rancher who cherished the land... a private man in a public job. A westerner with an eastern education... a patriot in the service of a President he considered little better than a fool, or perhaps a dunce."

And the book, a passionate defence of arms control and the need to save the superpowers from ideological zealots who want to scuttle the Salt-III talks, is dedicated to "all the men and women who have given their lives to negotiate limits on nuclear weapons out of love for their countries and a desire for a safer world."

Senator Hart, a former member of the Senate armed services committee, knows his subject. He has clearly drawn

on numerous Senate hearings for his fictional denunciation of star wars.

He has used his visits to Moscow — the last only a few months ago — to recreate accurately the scenery on the train journey from Moscow to Leningrad, the streets of Moscow and the statues of Leningrad. He knows — and despises — the sickening Washington power talk.

Hart is currently the leading contender — by a huge margin — for the Democratic presidential nomination. And the Democrats are confident they will win in 1988. Is the book a forerunner of things to come, an insight into the soul of the next president? Perhaps. But it also says much about Hart that he found time to write the book.

Nor is it his first — he has already published three books of political philosophy, and another thriller written, curiously, in conjunction with a Republican, Senator William Cohen of Maine. To Hart writing is almost more compulsive than politics and he has several times mused that one day he would retire to Ireland to write.

The reviews, lengthy of course, have not been too kind. But America is intrigued at glimpsing in print something of this aloof and private politician.

Six years ago the nation watched "Bedtime for Bonzo" and all the other B-grade movies to gain insights into the man behind the actor-president. And the most glowering observation have been "Mr Reagan's habits of thought, speech and reaction to his

finest. So far, the book's candid speculation has nothing to suggest that his speeches to judge them on.

Drum-beat of hearts in Tehran

Doomed children on parade for communion of toffees

From Robert Fink, Tehran

The inscription on the red bands round the little boys' heads was quite unimpressive. "Yes, Khomeini, we are ready," it said. And the would-be martyrs, dressed in yellow jogging suits, banged their small fists against their hearts in rhythm with the chant of all the other worshippers.

This ceremonial drum-beat — at least 10,000 hands clapped to 10,000 chests every four seconds — pulsed out, as it always does at Friday prayers, through the airwaves of Iranian radio and television. The audience was familiar, even if the faces changed from week to week: mullahs, wheelchair veterans of the Gulf War, the poor of South Tehran, the volunteer children and the Iraqi POWs, grey uniformed and trucked to the prayer ground to curse their own President.

Friday prayers, on the campus of Tehran University, is a unique combination of religious emotion and foreign policy declaration, a kind of Billy Graham crusade and a weekly State of the Nation address rolled into one. A stranger — particularly a Westerner — can be perplexed at what he sees, even deeply troubled. But he cannot fail to be impressed.

Grain trade war averted

American farmers planning protest on EEC agreement

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Angry American farmers yesterday denounced the grain agreement hammered out at the final hour by United States and EEC officials to avert a bitter trade war.

Several large agricultural organizations representing hard-pressed farmers in the American Midwest, said they planned to take their protest to Capitol Hill and demanded action against the EEC in the new trade legislation, which is a priority of the Democratic-controlled Congress.

"This is a major setback," said Mr Michael Hall, executive vice-president of the National Corn Growers Association, the organization which led a coalition of groups which pressured the Administration for full compensation to repay farmers for trade lost due to the entry of Spain and Portugal into the European Community.

At a briefing on the agreement, US officials hailed the accord as an equitable political solution to a problem which had threatened to ignite the worst commercial war between the governments in more than a decade.

"You must remember that if we had imposed tariffs and the community had retaliated, the result would have been a trade war which would not have resulted in the sale of one more kernel of grain to Spain or Portugal," said Mr Alan Woods, Deputy US trade representative. But Mr Alan



Mr Clayton Yentzer, his grain agreement criticised.

Tank vice-president of a Washington-based farm group, said no agreement would have been better than the one negotiated by Mr Clayton Yentzer, the US trade representative.

"They should have walked away from the agreement before they got to this stage. We may have needed a little trade war," he said.

Farm groups disputed the US Government claim that they would pick up "the lion's share" of the two million tonnes of grain and the 300,000 tonnes of sorghum that will be sold to Spain as a result of the new agreement, which is subject to review when it expires in 1990.

"There are no teeth in this agreement to force the Europeans to live up to the bargain," Mr Hall said. He noted that under an interim

No import tariff has been fixed for the imported grain and potential suppliers will have to tender for reduced import levy rates. But Spain fears the importers will fix the prices between them, forcing the Brussels authorities to accept unrealistically low rates.

To avoid such abuses, the EEC Commission has promised to consult Madrid before fixing import duties. It has also promised to bear the cost of state buying of surplus grain imported under the deal.

Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani made no reference to them. The formula is an old one, too familiar for words. His message was more temporal. Iraq was losing too many men at the front. It was also losing too much territory. To save the land, it had to lose more men. To save the men, it had to lose more land. So Iraq was losing the war. Since Thursday night alone, the Iraqis had lost six more brigades. The worshippers chanted their rhythmic thanks to their Army at the front.

Friday prayers are broadcast through loudspeakers along those very front lines opposite Basra piped through loudspeakers so that the Iraqis there can hear the 10,000 voices above the shellfire. Those voices yesterday demanded revenge against Iraq for its air attacks on Iranian cities.

The Hojatoleslam did add one pragmatic note to the proceedings. "If you want to make yourselves useful," he told his nation-wide audience, "you can dig air-raid shelters at home."

The young boys stood limply on either side of him, perhaps aware that their homes were no longer their immediate concern.

Then the boys walked soulfully back to their places on each side of the dais, hair cut short, large dark eyes, occasionally turning shy towards the mass of people. They were the worshippers were told, clearly aware of their mission. They stood there, fidgeting sometimes, headbands slightly awry but feet together at attention as any child might play at soldiers in his home.

'Up to 100' killed in Sri Lanka

Colombo (Reuters) — Sri Lankan residents alleged yesterday that security forces killed up to 100 civilians during a battle this week with Tamil separatist guerrillas.

An official of the Barmulla Citizens Committee said the battle occurred at Kokkadicholai in eastern Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

"Most of them died in the straining from aircraft," he said.

But a Government spokesman denied the allegations and said: "Only 21 terrorists, 13 security forces men and four civilians were killed."

He said commandos captured the main base of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam near Kokkadicholai.

The LTTE is the largest of the south Indian guerrilla groups fighting for a separate Tamil homeland.

Madrid (AP) — Spain's Foreign Ministry said that an East German diplomat, Friedel Kemper, aged 33, had been expelled from Spain last August because he sought out contacts with extreme left-wing groups.

Burning issue

Madras, India (AP) — A judge sentenced a leading Tamil politician, Mr Muthuvel Karunanidhi, to 10 weeks hard labour for burning part of the Indian Constitution in protest against the alleged imposition of the Hindi language.

Tinned drug

Panama City (Reuters) — Panamanian police have discovered 88lb of pure cocaine worth about £2.6 million packed in tins labelled as palm hearts, after an officer thought the labels were suspect.

Be prepared

Wellington (Reuters) — A New Zealand firm is selling a £75 coffin kit (in five sizes) that can be stored in the attic until needed and then assembled in minutes, although presumably not by the person who will use it.

Correction

Chancellor Kohl, leader of the West German Christian Democrats, was pictured with Herr Heiner Geissler, the party secretary, and not Herr Norbert Blum as stated in early editions of *The Times* on Tuesday, January 27.



Enlita and Iran Gutierrez grieving at yesterday's funeral for their brother, Angelito, who was among 15 people killed in a demonstration at Mendiola Bridge in Manila last week.

Marcos lashes out at US for treating him 'like a prisoner'

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Former President Ferdinand Marcos has angrily denounced the US Government for treating him "like a prisoner" after the State Department, acting on a tip-off, prevented him leaving Honolulu on a private plane for Manila.

The Boeing 707, chartered from a Lebanese arms dealer in Florida, waited for three days at Honolulu International Airport while forces loyal to the exiled President tried to topple the Marcos Government in Manila.

But when it was clear to the rebellious soldiers that Mr Marcos would not be allowed to leave, their uprising collapsed. The plane has now returned to Florida.

The State Department was told of the Marcos's preparations to return by the Philippines Consul-General in

Miami, who learned that the plane had been chartered by the former President. The State Department, through its representative in Hawaii, told him that any attempt to return to the Philippines would violate the terms of his stay in the US.

The department spokesman said that when he came with his party to live as guests in Hawaii last February, it was with the understanding that he could come and go as he pleased, with one exception: he could not return to the Philippines only by prior agreement with the Manila Government.

"The Philippines Government asked us to do everything we could to prevent this from happening," the spokesman said.

Preparations for his return apparently included some

shopping by Mrs Imelda Marcos. Last Saturday she visited the military shop in Waikiki with about eight people and bought camouflage trousers, combat boots, T-shirts and heavyweight jackets, paying about \$2,000 (£1,300).

The Lebanese arms dealer, Mr Sarkis Soghamalian, claimed while waiting at Honolulu that he was on a business and pleasure trip. But investigators found he was waiting to complete the sale of the Boeing 707 to Marcos backers, who had already put down a deposit.

After being prevented from leaving, Mr Marcos appealed to his supporters to "keep on fighting for liberty and democracy". After his press conference he was seen on television lifting weights and jogging to demonstrate his fitness.

Israeli leaders fall out on peace talks

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Mr Yitzhak Shamir and Mr Shimon Peres, leaders of the two main factions of the Israeli coalition Government, met tomorrow before the regular weekly Cabinet meeting to try to defuse the latest argument between them. Mr Peres, the Foreign Minister, has made veiled threats about leaving the Government, while Mr Shamir, now in the driving seat as Prime Minister, is showing no signs of compromise.

The argument centres on the idea of an international conference on Middle East peace, including Soviet and Chinese representation, which King Hussein of Jordan insists must be held to sort out the Palestinian problem. Mr Peres told foreign ministers of the EEC in Brussels this week that Israel was prepared to take part in such a conference provided it led to direct negotiations with Jordan. Mr

Delhi talks to ease tension on border

From Our Correspondent, Delhi

Mr Abdul Sattar, the Pakistani Foreign Secretary, arrived in Delhi last night for two days of talks on defusing military tension along the India-Pakistan border.

Mr Sattar was greeted at the airport by his Indian counterpart, Mr Alfred Gonsalves. He was to meet Mr Gonsalves and other Indian Foreign Ministry officials today and tomorrow.

Mr Gopalaswami Parthasarthy, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, said Pakistan's Ambassador to India, Mr Humayun Khan, had met Mr K. Natwar Singh, Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

India last Sunday called for talks two days after moving troops to the border in northern Punjab state to counter what it said was an "unusual" buildup of Pakistani troops across the frontier. Pakistan countered that its troops were

on routine exercises and, in response to the Indian move, advanced its forces.

There also have been reports, which the Government has refused to confirm, that Indian forces have been increased along the disputed Indian-Pakistan border in Kashmir to the north.

The troop movements came as tensions between the countries already were running high. India has accused Pakistan of training and harbouring Sikh militants waging a guerrilla war for an independent homeland in Punjab and of encouraging cross-border drug smuggling. Pakistan denies the allegations.

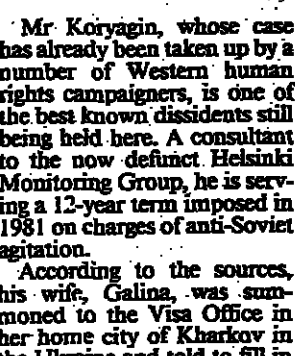
● KARACHI: Police fired on a crowd of protesters yesterday, killing at least one man and wounding 13 others after a bomb shattered a police vehicle in running street battles in Karachi (AP reports).

Russia to free top dissidents

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

In a further attempt to improve the Kremlin's tarnished image on human rights, the Soviet authorities have informed two more leading dissidents that they will be freed from labour camp. They also stated that the cases of up to 10,000 Jews previously refused permission to emigrate are now being reconsidered.

Dissident sources said here yesterday that the wives of Mr Anatoly Koryagin, a psychiatrist aged 48, and Mr Sergei Khodorovich, a computer programmer aged 45, had been separately informed that their husbands can be freed from the Gulag if they agree to emigrate to the West.



Mr Koryagin, whose case has already been taken up by a number of Western human rights campaigners.

Mr Koryagin, whose case has already been taken up by a number of Western human rights campaigners, is one of the best known dissidents still being held here. A consultant to the now defunct Helsinki Monitoring Group, he is serving a 12-year term imposed in 1981 on charges of anti-Soviet agitation.

According to the sources, his wife, Galina, was summoned to the Visa Office in her home city of Kharkov in the Ukraine and told to fill in emigration papers for the whole family, including her husband, who has been nominated for the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize.

Mrs Koryagin was quoted as saying that she had been told that if he did not agree to

emigrate, he would have to serve the rest of his sentence. She said she had completed the application and was now waiting for further news.

A senior Soviet source told *The Times* that several hundred sick prisoners were due for release this year following the decision last month to allow Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident physicist to return to Moscow from internal exile. One or more of the released men, the source said, would soon be produced to give interviews to Western reporters in Moscow.

The claimed softening in the Soviet stand on the position of Jewish *refuseniks* was announced by Mr Samuel Ziv, chairman of the Soviet Anti-Zionist Committee.

Don't be fooled by Kremlin, says Sharansky

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Mr Anatoly Sharansky on his third visit to the west coast of America is spreading a single message here: "Don't be fooled by Glasnost," by what he calls Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's "campaign of gestures".

The Russian-born physicist, released last year in a spy swap exchange after serving 8½ years of a 13-year sentence in a Soviet prison, came to California this week to collect the Simon Wiesenthal Centre's annual humanitarian award.

He accepted the award from Mr Wiesenthal, who flew in from Vienna for the event which was also attended by celebrities including Jane Fonda, William Shatner and Veronica Hamel; politicians such as Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy and Mr Dave Roberts, President of the California Senate, as well as Mr Tom Bradley, the mayor of Los Angeles, Miss Fonda's



Mr Sharansky, left, greets Mr Simon Wiesenthal and Jane Fonda at the award ceremony.

husband Mr Tom Hayden, the Assemblyman, and Mr Arnold Hammer, the US industrialist who has been doing business with the Soviets since the revolution.

Mr Rupert Murdoch, the publisher, and his wife, Anna, who were co-chairing the dinner did not arrive from Australia in time to attend.

All this week Mr Sharansky has been taking the opportunity of his exposure to the American media to plead that pressure on the Soviet leader must be relaxed.

Calling Mr Gorbachev's reforms more cosmetic than actual, Mr Sharansky said: "I am not optimistic. While the reforms are a clear sign that

Gorbachev admits the pressure of the West on him on the subject of human rights and that it is dangerous for the Soviet Union to continue living with these problems, it depends on how the West responds to him as to what will happen. In fact it depends more on the West than on Gorbachev."

Miss Ratuschinskaya, who recently fled the Soviet Union and has lived in London since last year, was speaking at a meeting organized by the International Society for Human Rights in Vienna.

Sanctions briefing for envoy

Warsaw (Reuters) — Mr Zbigniew Messner, the Polish Prime Minister, briefed Mr John Whitehead, the American envoy, yesterday on the effect US sanctions have had on Poland's economy and discussed prospects for an improvement in relations.

Mr Whitehead, a Deputy Secretary of State, is meeting government, church and opposition leaders in Poland and will advise the Reagan Administration on a timetable for lifting sanctions.

The measures, which affect trade and credit, were taken by the United States after Poland's communist authorities suppressed the Solidarity free trade union under martial law at the end of 1981.

Mr Whitehead, the most senior US official to visit the country since, was due to meet Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity chairman and other opposition activists last night. He

was expected to have talks with General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Communist Party leader, this morning.

Mr Messner said his talks with Mr Whitehead were part of an intensification of dialogue with the United States.

Western diplomats said any lifting of the embargo on fresh US Government credit for Poland would be mainly a symbolic gesture for the moment.

But Washington's restoration of most favoured nation (MFN) trading status to Poland would provide an impetus to the export drive to the West with which the Polish Government is spearheading its attempted economic recovery.

Informed sources said almost all sectors of opinion consulted by Mr Whitehead during his visit were expected to press for the lifting of sanctions because of the economic burden they impose.

Aquino orders arrest of general

From David Watts, Manila

The Philippines Government has ordered the arrest of a leading pro-Marcos general as one of the brains behind the attempted coup this week.

Brigadier-General José Zúñiga, a former fighter-pilot and a brother of Mr Antonio Zúñiga, one of the leading members of the communist National Democratic Front which negotiated the present ceasefire between the Government and the insurgent New People's Army, is one of up to 100 people the government is seeking in connection with the coup plot.

General Fidel Ramos, Chief of Staff of the armed forces, named several officers being sought, including one who was a leading figure in the July coup attempt, and said others would be named later. Also being sought are several leading politicians of the Marcos era.

Several of the latter left Manila at about the time of the attempted coup, including the former President's mother, Mrs Josefa Edralin Marcos, who has been in the Philippine Heart Centre for Asia at government expense for many months. Mrs Marcos was moved to the stronghold of Marcos influence in Ilocos Norte province, north of Manila.

At about the same time the United States Government foiled an attempt by the former President to return to Manila from Honolulu on a Boeing 707 chartered from a Lebanese arms dealer linked with Mr Adnan Khashoggi, a friend of Mrs Imelda Marcos.

Thirteen officers and 359 enlisted men have been detained and disarmed in connection with the coup and 130 civilians have been arrested.

General Ramos said military personnel would be treated on a case-by-case basis with due consideration being given those misled by their superiors. They are to be charged under the Articles of War and could be sentenced to death or life imprisonment. However, the death penalty will be abolished under the new constitution to be approved on Monday.

Mr Silvestre Berro, Deputy Minister of Justice, said the civilians would be charged with rebellion, which could also result in life jail terms.

Meanwhile, the National Democratic Front, officially announced its withdrawal from the peace negotiations between the Government and communist insurgents. The announcement was made in leaflets distributed at a special mass and rally for the 15 people killed at the Mendiola Bridge last week.

The Front said it would continue to respect the ceasefire until the February 8 deadline.

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January 31 - February 6, 1987

SATURDAY

A weekly guide
to leisure, entertainment
and the artsSailing
in to
vision

The America's Cup final starting today becomes a major television event for the first time. But other sports are jostling for attention. Stephen Aris looks at the contenders

When Australia's Kookaburra III set sail this morning to defend the America's Cup against the American challenger, Stars and Stripes, far more was at stake than a trophy worth little more than £340. For the eyes of the world were on a 24-mile stretch of water off Fremantle, Western Australia.

As the two boats played catch-as-catch-can among the spectator fleet during the pre-start manoeuvres, every twist and turn, every feint and counter feint was being relayed across the world by the 51 television networks who have bought a slice of the action.

In Britain the pictures come not from the big guns of the BBC or London Weekend but from one of the smaller but more imaginative regional stations, the Southampton-based TVS who bought the exclusive British rights from Mark McCormack's International Management Group and who have laboured long and hard to solve the immense technical difficulties of making sailing television entertainment.

As a spectator sport, the America's Cup leaves a lot to be desired. Much of the action is far away, it is often difficult to tell who is winning and for anyone not an aficionado it is next to impossible to understand the tactics. Also, despite the presence of miniature on-board cameras, helicopters and pursuit boats, the technology needed to provide instant coverage of a long-distance yacht race 8,000 miles away is still in its infancy.

"Sailing is a great thing to do but we have yet to come up with the television techniques to convey the excitement," admits Clive Jones, TVS's controller of news, current affairs and sport. Yet the

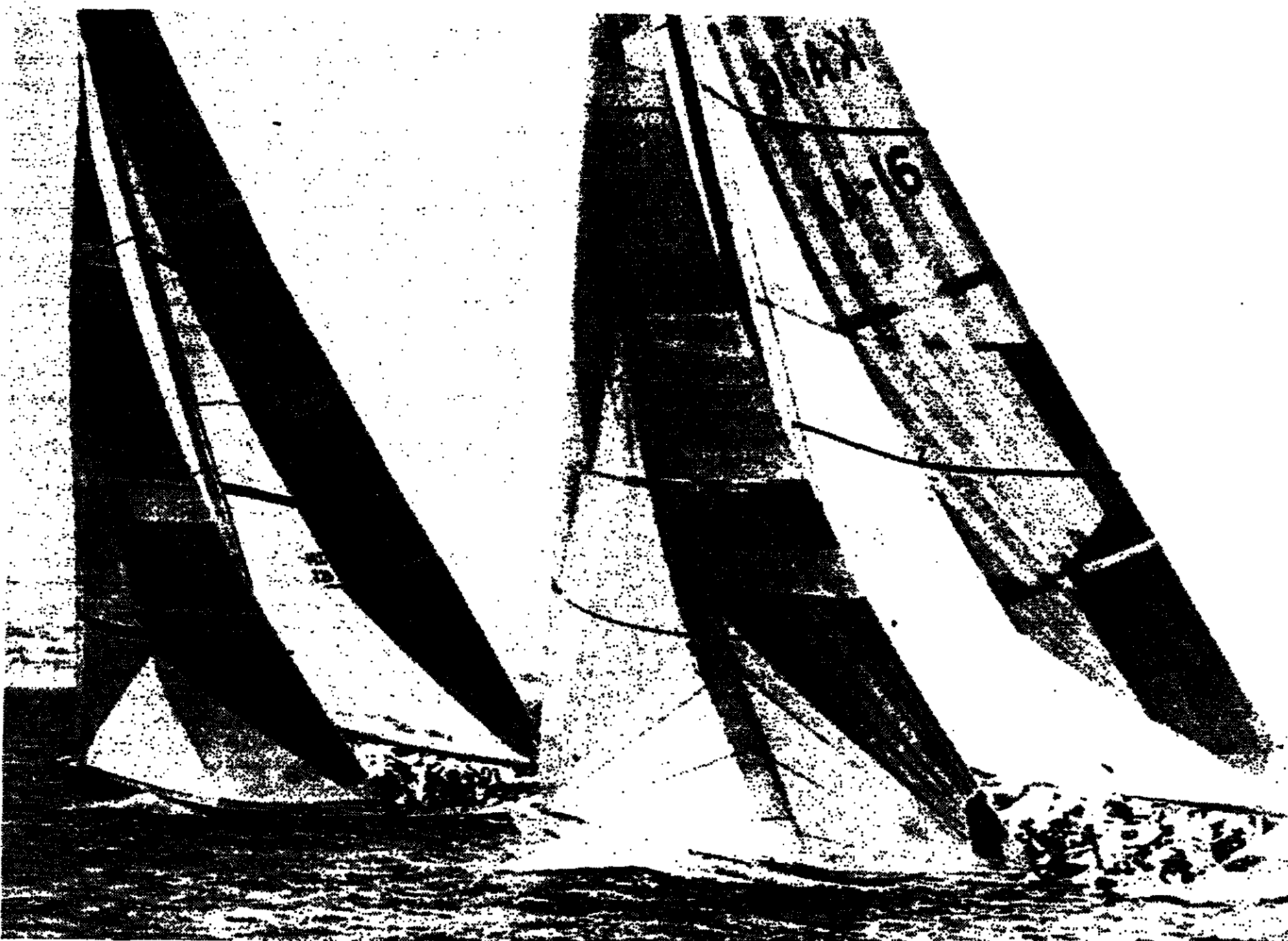
ballyhoo has had some effect. People who wouldn't have recognized a spinnaker if it fell on their heads now talk knowledgeably about wind shifts and biased lines and argue fiercely about the tactics of covering and the need to go for clear air.

The Australians are so enthusiastic that they are talking about a full-blown 12-metre world championship with stem-to-stern international television coverage, and even TVS is hoping later this summer to cash in on the interest by laying on a televised championship for somewhat smaller and less glamorous boats.

The public appetite for sport on television is seemingly so insatiable that, far from being content with providing a regular diet of cricket, football, tennis and athletics, the television companies are constantly on the hunt for what might be called "Son of Snooker". In other words, what they are looking for is some hitherto unregarded and preferably inexpensive activity that, through the alchemy of television, can be transformed into mass entertainment.

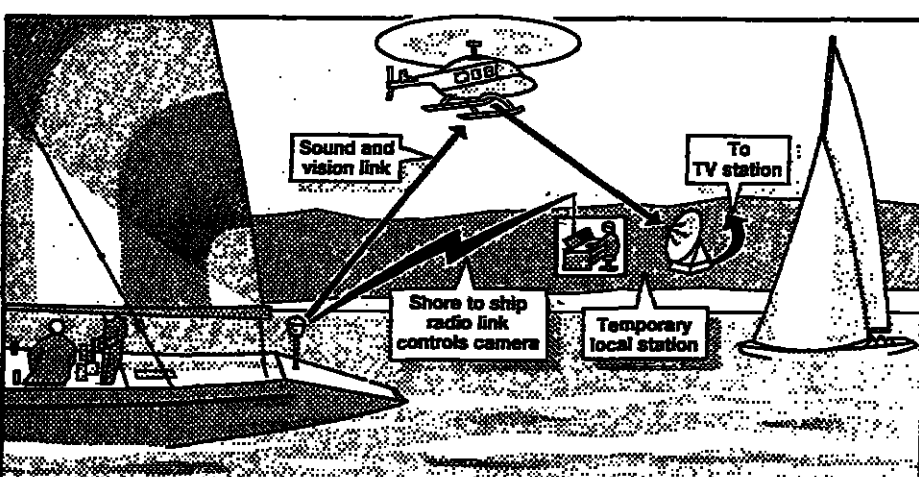
For several years London Weekend flirted with polo. But despite an exclusive contract with Smith's Lawn, the Wimbledon of polo, and regular appearances by Prince Charles, there was too little tension to keep viewers enthralled. "The game keeps stopping and starting," LWT says. "Balls are lost and horses changed. There are so many interruptions that even edited highlights don't work. Also it's not exactly the kind of game our viewers identify with. In the end we decided there was too much else happening on Sunday afternoons, so it had to go."

At first sight, the fast and furious action of squash



Scene afloat: Kookaburra III (left) and Australia IV on the battleground, where their manoeuvres will draw the attention of an international television audience

THE ONBOARD CAMERA THAT BRAVES THE WAVES



One piece of technology that has had an enormous impact on the America's Cup, writes Barry Pickthall, is Channel 7 television's "Race Cam", an onboard remote controlled video camera that takes viewers into the middle of the action.

The camera system, which only weighs 11kg including aerial and transmitter and the electric box of tricks controlling its operation, has been mounted on several of the Cup contenders, either on the mast in the case of the Australian defender Kookaburra III, or on the stern.

It sends live pictures over a microwave link, via a helicopter hovering above, to a temporary shoreline station from where the signal is

beamed direct to the TV studio.

The system was first developed in 1979 for New South Wales's Bathurst 500 saloon car race and has subsequently been used in events like last year's Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide.

Now aboard Kookaburra III, the camera is set in lightweight, aerodynamic housing and is operated via a radio link by a cameraman watching a monitor ashore. Remote controls include focus, zoom and pan and the camera can also be rotated and tilted manually, or locked on the horizon, depending on whether the producer wants a shot of the action on board or of the opposing yacht.

One early problem was how

to keep the lens clear of fine salt spray. A remote controlled fresh water wash was fitted to one side of the mast and is used whenever salt builds up.

In the cut and thrust of match racing, collisions are commonplace and the crew of Kookaburra has often relied on Race Cam pictures to provide evidence against their opponents in the protest room.

But it has also proved something of an onboard spy, catching crews during unguarded moments more than once. During a recent break from training in the waters off Fremantle, Kookaburra mainsheet trimmer Peter Gilmore directed some choice words at the camera and asked it whether it was listening. As he watched, the camera nodded.

SATURDAY

Chinese New Year
celebrations: a
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eat and what to
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There are still many problems to be sorted out says Ted Wallbuton, the marketing manager of the SRA. "It's very fast, the top players make the game look too easy and television is not very good at explaining what's happening." Undaunted, the BBC is planning to cover several big squash events later this year, including the British Open in April and the World Open Championships in October.

Perhaps the most surprising breakthrough has been by a game far removed from the showbiz atmosphere of television. It is slow, gentle and quintessentially English. It is also, in its quiet way, devastatingly ruthless. For years croquet, which has been described as "a cross between snooker and chess", has been associated with long summer days on vicarage lawns. Now it too has felt the impact of television.

Last summer Granada devoted six hours to an international croquet tournament. The rules were unchanged but

would seem to make it a television natural. It is highly popular, played by three million people a year, and is expanding fast.

But there are formidable technical problems which television is trying to solve. With the help of the Squash Rackets Association, a new ball has been developed, fitted with cat's-eyes and glowing like a firefly to help viewers follow the action, and new American rules have been introduced to shorten the rallies and change the scoring system.

Hockey, too, has been enjoying a renaissance - thanks to a happy coincidence. To fill a gap in its schedules, the BBC agreed to cover the world championships held in London last October. To everyone's delight, the English team did unexpectedly well, winning a thrilling semi-final in extra time against the West Germans and going on to take the silver medal.

Almost overnight, the public perception was changed of a game which has been played in Britain for 150 years. Thanks largely to television, the old image of beefy schoolgirls in pigtails was dispelled. "What the public saw," says Stephen Baines, chief executive of the Hockey Association, "was something fast, exciting and skilful. I think people were looking for something new, and found that a game where there was no violence and no tantrums was very refreshing."

Of all the television companies, Channel 4 has been the most imaginative in its coverage of sport - by necessity, because ITV and the BBC have a monopoly of the major events.

With the help of indepen-

dent production companies like the Soho-based Cheerleader, Channel 4 has repackaged swimming footage with coloured lanes and underwater cameras, promoted inner-city cycling and road running, has given extensive coverage to the Tour de France, staged Australian rules football and baseball and is shortly to expand its badminton and hockey coverage. It is also toying with the idea of Japanese sumo wrestling and rowing.

To give the so-called minority sports a chance to show what they can do, Channel 4 is planning to screen later this year a series of half-hour videos featuring three sports each. Called *Minority Challenge* there will, starting in April, be a series of featurettes on everything from roller hockey to parachuting, from judo to fencing.

But, as Adrian Metcalfe, former Olympic athlete and head of Channel 4 sports, says, "The trouble with most minority sports on TV is that they look like it. They suffer from what I call 'the Oxfam image' and very few have any staying power."

Metcalfe's biggest success so far is American football, where the programmes have been specially packaged for the British market by Cheerleader and attract a weekly audience of four million - astonishingly not far short of the five million who regularly watch British soccer.

Channel Four's Metcalfe thinks that one of the reasons for American football's present popularity, which includes a cult following among

the young, is the trouble that has been taken to explain what's going on. "From the start we said: 'This is fun, and just because the rules are complicated you don't need to be frightened of it.'"

Even so, there is no single formula for a successful television sport. Each one has its own pace and character; darts is short, sharp and simple; American football is violent, explosive and ritualistic; and bowls, which many think might well be the next to achieve ratings of snooker dimensions, is slow, sinuous and subtle.

Each of these sports, in its different way, works well on television, although it has often taken a long time for the penny to drop. Darts, for example, languished in pubs until the BBC's Nick Hunter spotted the small-screen potential and persuaded those in charge to organize a world championship specially for television.

But if there is one sport above all that owes its popularity to television, it is snooker. During the final of the 1985 world championship, a record 18.5 million people were still glued to their television sets well past midnight, and most weeks it holds an audience of around five million.

It is a game, so the researchers say, that appeals primarily to the over-fifties and is surprisingly popular with women. Every year the pundits confidently predict that the end of the snooker boom is at hand and each year they are proved wrong. The search for Son of Snooker continues.

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Sporting chances: hockey and judo may become popular through TV, but polo failed to capture a mass audience

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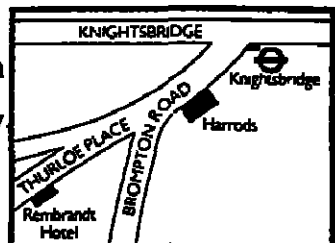
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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 1

Back to nature or back to the past

The Languedoc-Roussillon coastline attracts naturists, noisy fun-lovers — and those in search of the quiet and charm of the French countryside. Val Hennessy reports

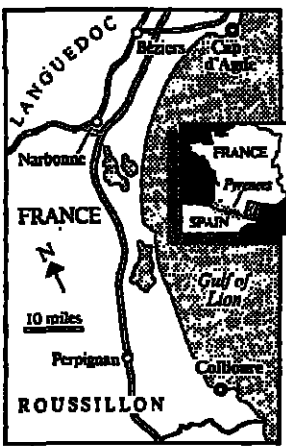
Mosquitoes hate garlic. Chew two cloves a day and you render yourself more repulsive to a mosquito, than Flit. I learned this from a kipper-complexioned tourist strolling along the Quai de Beauré at Cap d'Agde. In her view, and despite the mosquitoes, Cap d'Agde, "The Marina on the Med", is the ultimate holiday resort.

Garlic-eaters attracted to this 200km of reclaimed, architect-designed marshland will find 62 tennis courts (14 floodlit), 2,100 moorings, several jogging routes, mini golf courses, go-cart tracks, archery, football, organized Scrabble, 17 discos and sun, sun, sun that beats relentlessly down — and especially fiercely — upon the thousands thronging the tourist district.

And then there's Aqualand, "seven acres of happiness" where life is like an action-packed non-stop commercial. It has the world's longest waterslides, fake lagoons, designer-planned grove with psychedelic fountains, a water-spray and a wave-pool. Underwater loud speakers provide music and sound-effects.

However, if Cap d'Agde isn't your cup of tea, then the slow-paced, genteel, traditional France with men wearing berets, children carrying baguettes under their arms, may be discovered only 50km away at Collioure, a small fishing port, where the tranquillity of its three golden beaches is disturbed only by the clink of petanque balls and the cries of windsurfers coming to grief.

I chose this sleepy town as my base. Dominating the harbour at Collioure is the stunning 12th century Palace of the Kings of Mallorca, impressive setting for permanent sculpture and painting exhibitions. Artists are attracted to this town like bees to a rose. Picasso spent much of the 1920s at "Les Tempeliers", an inn overlooking the river. According to the current bar-tender, he would sit outside sipping a small glass of Banyuls and eating Cargolade (eel and snail

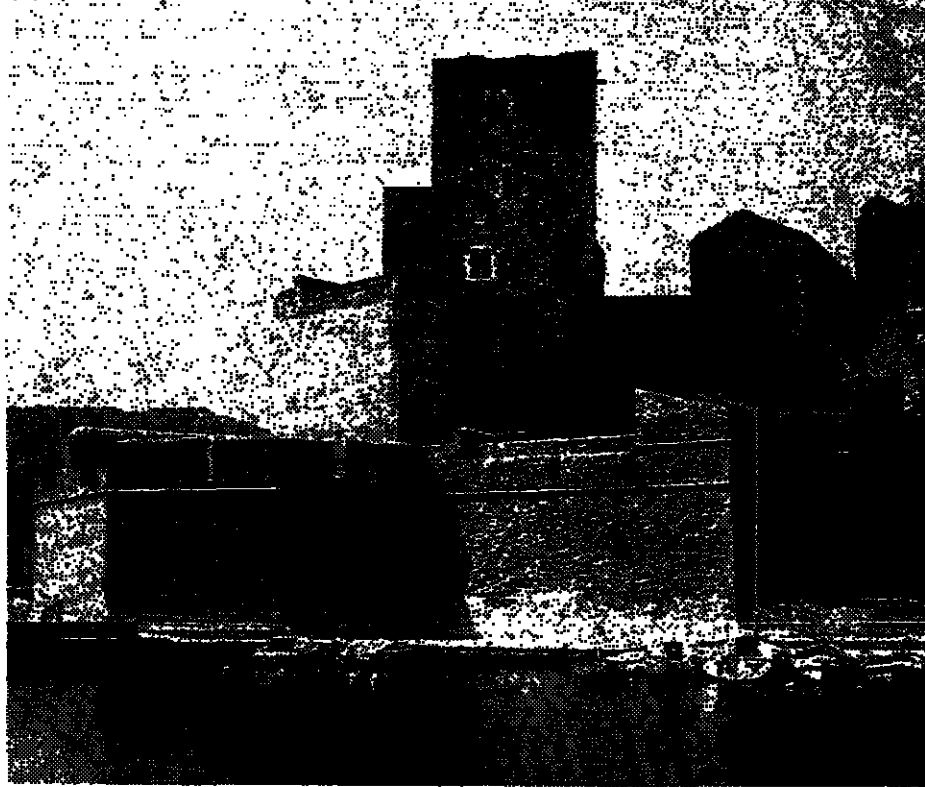


barbeque) in the company of Matisse and Dalí.

Today "Les Tempeliers" is a living museum, its walls hung with some of the 2,000 original masterpieces, and dreadful daubs, presented to previous owners in gratitude for days well spent. Picasso's works were ruined and removed after a flood in 1972, but there are fine sepia photographs of him wearing his sun hat, and there's Toulouse-Lautrec's original Jane Avril poster hanging in the bar.

The nearby cafés and restaurants along the traffic-free quay offer gourmet meals at bargain prices. The Frigate Hotel serves a spectacular Zarzuela — a thick, rum-flavoured fish soup — which should be eaten outside, above the dried up river bed, where honeysuckle and roses ramble up walls and little grey ghost-like cats slink out of geranium pots to pester you for fragments of fish.

Collioure's back streets are narrow and cobbled and smell of fried onions. There are real shops, selling groceries, clothes, vegetables and take-



Middle ages: the 12th century Palace of the Kings of Mallorca beside Collioure harbour

away delights — soft sugar-dusted doughnuts and mouthwatering hot paté-en-croûte for nine francs. Picture postcards cost half the amount they do at Cap d'Agde. A meal at the creper-clad Hotel Les Terrasses, its terrace a vista of potted geraniums and spindly wrought-iron patio tables and chairs, costs 50 francs for



Bronze age: sun worshippers on the beach at Cap d'Agde

purple prose of a Collioure guidebook which describes the area as "an artist's palette of sunshine destinations, a subtle pot-pourri of scents, perfumes and eye-enticing colour".

Many of the Languedoc-Roussillon country towns, boasting lakes, waterfalls and forests, are officially designated "Stations Vertes" and offer charming family-run hotels at budget prices. A double room costs about £6. These towns have swimming pools, safe bathing areas and glorious walks along lanes embellished with poppies, cornflowers and clouds of butterflies in the way British lanes once were. And you will not glimpse even one high-rise hotel.

A car is necessary, too, to travel 30km to "Les Estreilles", a restored farmhouse surrounded by

sloping vineyards, where the food is prepared and served by the resident owners. The kitchen, all flag floors, rafters, brass oil lamps and gleaming spice jars, has a vast wood-fuelled stone oven. The moment you enter you know that this is a kitchen which has never encountered a chicken that wasn't free-range or a vegetable that wasn't organically grown.

Expect to dally for hours over your meal. In this part of the world people take their food very seriously indeed, so savour the chicken baked with herbs, garlic and apples, and the home-made goat's cheeses rolled in chopped chives. Outside ovals hoot and powdery moths flutter against the insect screens and you experience that rare delight of having really escaped from "it" all.

TRAVEL NOTES

Languedoc-Roussillon French Travel Service Holidays. By rail: Cost per person from any BR mainland station.

Cap d'Agde: Pierre et Vacances Studios: away from the centre, overlooking pool, 10 days at £235 per person, when occupied by two people with rail travel from any British Rail station. Couchette return £15. Sleeper return £55. Collioure: Hotel La Frigate:

overlooking Collioure's quayside, 100 yards from the beach. Excellent terrace restaurant. Ten days at £324 (half board). Supplements: bath and WC £15.

All FTS holidays include return sea crossing/transfer by coach or taxi from French rail station to resort. English-speaking courier on train. FTS has negotiated special car hire arrangements with Budget rent-a-car. Example: Peugeot 205 £132 for three days, £274 for a week. FTS, Francis House, Francis Street, London, SW1P 1DE; 01 828 8131/8152.

Month of sun days

TRAVEL NEWS

The long-haul specialist, Speedbird Holidays, has come up with a range of cut-price offers for departures throughout February.

Five-night holidays in Egypt are priced from £230 to £277, including return air fare. A nine-night holiday, including a Nile cruise, costs £545. Other deals include eight nights in Trinidad and Tobago from £435 to £599 and a week in Hong Kong from £470 to £556. Information on 01-741 0299 or from agents.

Discounting the cost

The Thomas Cook travel agency chain is taking on the budget-shops with a plan to sell discounted air fares over the counter at its 264 branches and 43 outlets of its associated company Frames Travel. Its Airfare Warehouse claims to have reached agreements with most major airlines and is offering fares of £295 return from London to Los Angeles, £243 to New York, £440 to Singapore and £67 to Paris.

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TRAVEL 2

Rambling round a Spanish rose

Peter Stothard
spends a weekend
break exploring
the ancient and
modern joys of
Barcelona, once
the sleeping
beauty of Europe

Perhaps it was guilt, perhaps pure perversity. You take a long weekend away from the demands of your two-year-old daughter, and you are seduced by the charms not of fine wines, fancy restaurants, unseen films, but of an amusement park.

The gardens of Tibidabo sit above Barcelona like an indulgent aunt encouraging the dutiful and the thrifty to play. From the top of the hill, the citizens of Spain's second city stare out at the harbour cranes that are the source of so much of their trading wealth. They can see the modest medieval cathedral, reminder of the days when Barcelona sat on the Iberian sidelines as "the sleeping beauty of Europe".

Turn a little to the left and there appears the towering modern cathedral of Antonio Gaudí, symbol of the violent artistic renaissance in the late 19th century when Barcelona could reasonably see itself as the centre of the world. Civic pride is strong in this capital of the Catalan region of Spain where both wealth and art are taken seriously.

There is a civic pride in the city that will host the Olympics

To take the carved wooden tram and twin-carriage funicular to Tibidabo on a Sunday is to join thousands of confident celebrants and their children in their tour through roundabouts, toboggan runs, fortune tellers and poisonous snake pits. It is an uplifting experience for an inhabitant of London.

It recalls the days when Highbury Barn was more than a bus stop and a row of shops, when Vauxhall Gardens had the spirit of Thackeray, not of Lambeth Council. Though the comparison may grieve those inhabitants of England's second city who thought that they, not the Barcelonians, should host the 1992 Olympics, it also recalls the sense of civic values in Joseph Chamberlain's Birmingham. This city wants to be first.

Barcelona has a main street — its Ramblas — which actually works. It runs from the port area, where the towering statue of Christopher Columbus contrasts with the tiny size of the boat that took him to the New World, to the heart of the business sector, the Plaza de Catalunya. Along the way there are rows of bookshops, flower shops and shops selling cage-birds.



Love in bloom: a peaceful stroll past the flower shops in Las Ramblas which beats the noisy Les Champs Elysées every time

The atmosphere is business-like. Las Ramblas is not meant primarily for tourists. The sellers are not to be trifled with. The canarios are *garantizados machos* too, or so the commonest shop sign reads.

Las Ramblas is not closed to cars, but it is not dominated by them either. It is not a lifeless pedestrian precinct but if you dislike the taste of carbon monoxide in your coffee it beats Les Champs Elysées every time. Every so often, there is the bonus of an extraordinary piece of commercial architecture, a helmeted streetlamp, a dragon-faced shopfront — by Antonio Gaudí or one of his followers. The works of Gaudí are scattered throughout Barcelona. A day's taxi ride is the best way to see them. There is the Parc Güell, the bizarre beginnings of a garden suburb that ran out of cash. Only two out of 70 proposed houses were built, but this town-plot-never-was has a marketplace like no other in the world.

It stands in the form of a massive multi-legged milking stool. To sit underneath it is to experience what it was like when Samson was shaking the pillars of the Philistines. To sit on top of it is like riding in a porcelain fairground "waltzer": each seat is a shaking curve of concrete encrusted with broken plates, cups and vivid floor tiles. It may not have been Gaudí's fault but his most famous work, the church of the Sagrada Família, suffered the same unforeseen interruption as his park. There are two

vast facades of dripping statuary separated by what — till this day — remains a building site.

One might have expected a devout church architect to build a place for worship first and to save the embellish-

ments for later. Gaudí was apparently a religious man but when it came to priorities, art came first. The result is one of those buildings that is better from a distance and better still in pictures. If you are short of time, leave it out.

From the well-dressed crowds on Las Ramblas to the inside of the side-street sandwich bars, Barcelona is self-consciously stylish. The restaurants show an aggressive respect for presentation. In the Pícolabí cafe and art gallery,

close to the Plaza de Catalunya, the chef's imaginative uses of white bread would be equally at home on the walls as on the plates.

An apparent exception is the solidly militaristic complex of buildings that will become so familiar to Olympic-watchers in six years' time. But do not be put off by the pretentious exterior of the Museo de Arte Catalana. Inside is the Majestad, a 900-year-old carved wood crucifixion whose ageless colours and simple serenity are awesome. The Majestad is just one of hundreds of wooden adornments from rural Catalan churches arranged in recreations of their original settings.

Most travellers seem to go to Barcelona for short periods. Before we left we were told much in the language of priorities: try not to miss the Picasso Museum, "remarkable in particular for the master's juvenilia," our expert told us. Do not, whatever you do, miss the Arie Catalana. In order to see Gaudí, don't be mean with taxis. All good advice — to which I would add the gardens of Tibidabo and the long, cool restaurant with the sea in front and the roller-coaster behind.



Gothic glory: Barcelona's beautiful medieval cathedral

TRAVEL NOTES

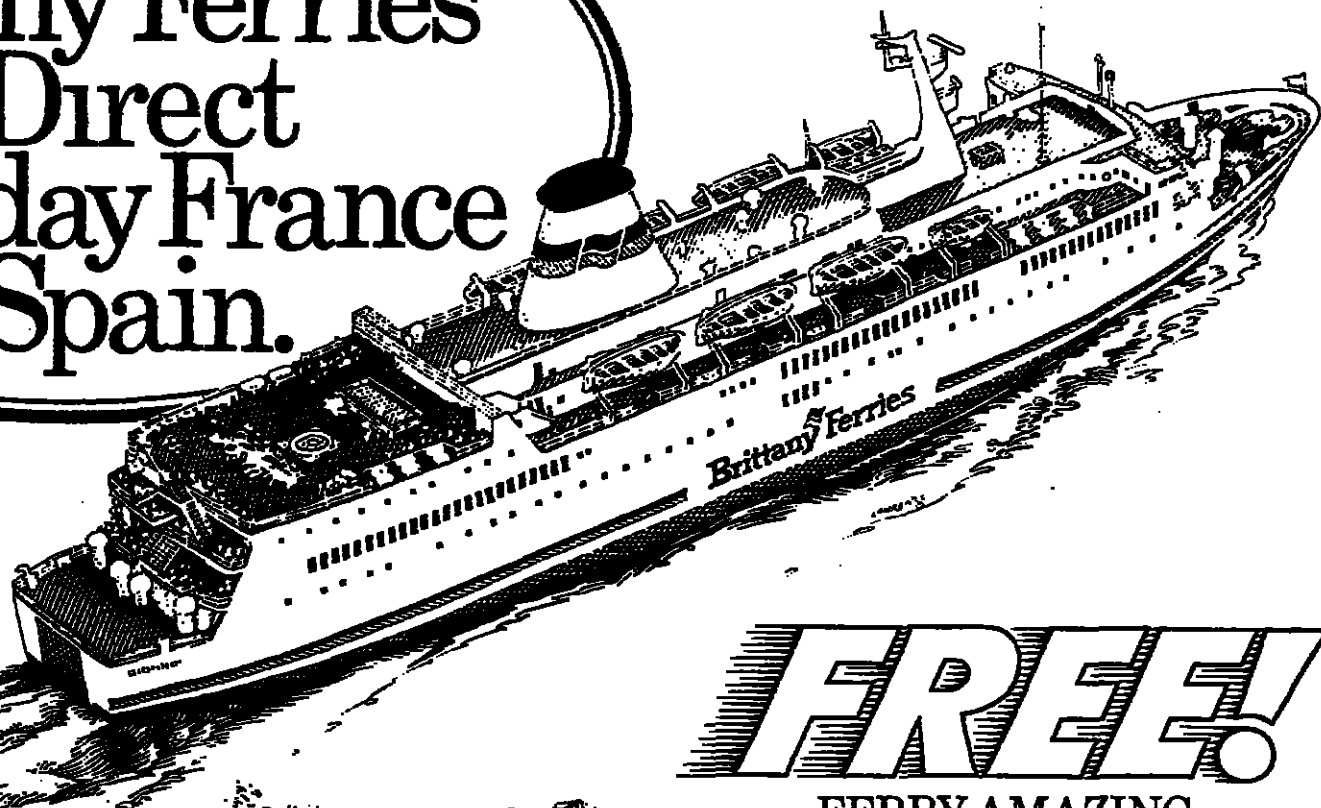
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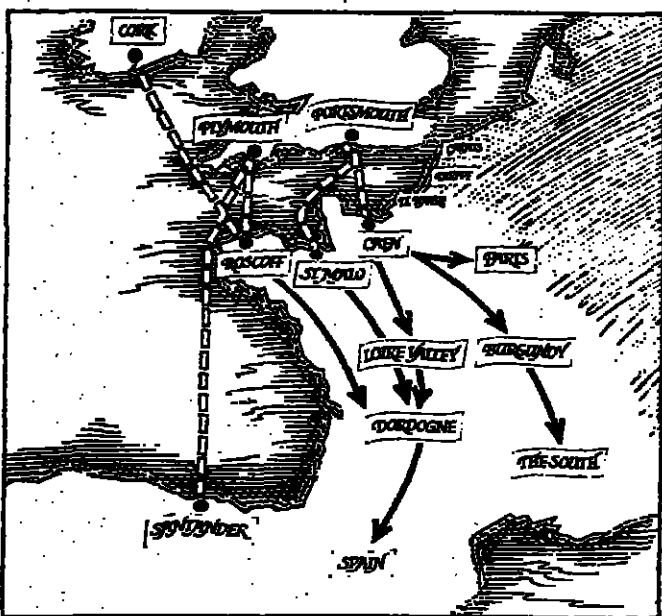
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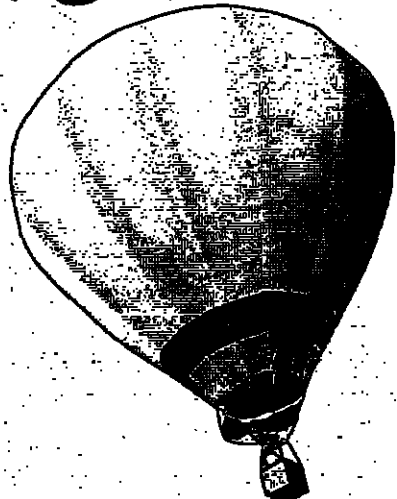
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EATING OUT

A taste of Chinatown

It's celebration time in Soho tomorrow when the Chinese community toasts its New Year with food, drink, fun and music. Jonathan Meades sampled their traditional fare

FRANCE MORLEY



Tomorrow, south Soho celebrates the Chinese New Year. dragons, pagentry, music, pickpockets.

Last year, Gerard Street got a face-lift — the example of San Francisco's Chinatown was followed and numerous items of Chinese "furniture" were plonked down in the newly pedestrianised quarter, so the congruence of actors and backdrop will at last be thorough.

This area is always teeming on Sundays. Entire Chinese families — four generations, some of them — come to eat protracted lunches. Queues are a norm, tomorrow they'll be longer than ever. And since booking rarely guarantees a table at the places listed below, you must be prepared to wait.

Chinatown's restaurants are predominantly Cantonese. It is not the place to come to for Szechuan or Peking food, though both are represented — while it is more than can be said for the Hunan or the Shanghai kitchens. You'll find better Szechuan and Peking stuff in the latest wave of rather chic establishments in, mainly, South Kensington, Brompton and Earl's Court (Queensway, like Soho, is Cantonese).

These newer and more expensive places have had an effect on Soho, even though they are outposts of altogether different culinary traditions. Their example has prompted a number of Soho restaurants to dispense with Sino-kitsch, wait-to-wall monosodium glutamate and filthy kitchens and to introduce inventive chef, functional decor, higher prices, courteous service.

The days when you could suffer halitotic abuse from a waiter, get a bowl of soup poured in your lap, contract botulism, injure your eyes looking at the decor, watch Triads amputating each other's arms and still have change from £1.50 are almost in the past.

The New Yorker, in its guide to its city's attractions, warns potential patrons of jazz clubs to check that gigs are as advertised because jazz musicians "lead complicated lives". That way understated might be applied, too, to Chinese restaurants. They come and go, names change, they form new alliances — phone, not to book but just to check that where you're heading for is still there. And if it's not, well, try next door.

We are celebrating the Year of the Rabbit. I've never seen a rabbit on a Chinese menu, however Mr Kong does veni-

son with ginger wine. This is a thoroughly successful combination and one of a number of "sandpot" (casserole) dishes offered here; duck with yams is also worth trying though the best of this lot is the quite extraordinary stew of lamb with dried beancurd.

The chef is clearly imbued by Cantonese tradition and, just as clearly, cognizant of what's been going on in France for the past few years.

Meat is not cooked until it is limp, and some of the combinations betray a new internationalism — for example, scallops and baby corns in a sort of deep-fried potato "basket". Filleted eels are char-grilled on satay sticks and dressed with Szechuan fegana pepper. Bill for two about £22. As with the rest of the prices given here it includes a couple of beers each but not wine, for the good reason that the wine in Chinese Soho tastes, to me, like sheep-dip.

Two other Chinatown restaurants are in the same league as Mr Kong: Poon's Leicester Street branch or Fung Ching. Of these I prefer Poon's — the decor is invisible and the (metal) hotpot of oel, belly pork and garlic a most splendid dish. I've eaten here about

20 times in the past three years and have rarely strayed from a tiny selection of dishes, although the menu is, in fact, extensive. I've eaten sea bass with black bean sauce, intensely hepatic wind-dried sausages, scallops, and that's about it. It all works out at around £24.

"Competition has meant inventive chefs, functional decor and courteous service"

Fung Ching is all carpets, spotlights and plants. Like Mr Kong, its near neighbour, it has a decorative neutrality and might be an Italian place or a French one. The deep-fried pig's intestines are especially good; something like sections of a reddish, glazed hoopepie, their texture crisp then fondant. They are served with rather acidic pickled cabbage and an intense plum sauce which combine happily. Of the dishes I tried last week the only other that was thoroughly successful was of eel deep-fried in spiced batter; the meat was firm, its coating bereft of grease. A duck and

plum hotpot was marred by overdone meat, too much bone and an excess of coriander. Minced quail with lettuce leaves was dull and might have been any tasteless meat. Allegedly fried noodles were flaccid. About £30.

Another bony duck had its end at Dragon Gate, a Szechuan interloper at the east end of Gerrard Street. This one's posthumous fate was to be "tea smoked". This process, which uses jasmine tea and wood chips, imparts a flavour among anyone keen on cressets, bitumen or fresh tar. The duck itself should be enjoyed by those who like a mouthful of shrapnel. The best dishes here are: spicy tripe served in cold strips; shrimps with garlic and chilli; fried noodles. The service is sometimes tetchy. There is no decor to speak of. Cost: £28 for two.

The mostly steamed, sometimes fried "snacks" called dimsum or tumsun are available through the day at a number of Soho joints, rarely in the evening. The standard angle on these dishes is that they make a light lunch. Anyone who goes along with the idea that a light lunch is a bad lunch will treat them as elaborate hors-d'oeuvres.

This, at any rate, is the Chinese way. They are offered on trolleys by non-Anglophone waitresses at Man Fu Kong, New World, Chuen Cheng Ku and are on the menu at Joy King Lau, Lyon, New Loon Fung, etc.

As sheer spectacle, New World and Man Fu Kong achieve a dead heat. New World seats more than 500 and most of them are Chinese and most of them talk. The trolley-persons are slow and the subsequent menu is better than its size might promise.

Man Fu Kong is also vast. Dimsum in this place is pretty briskly delivered and the more interesting dishes here tend not to be on the menu; there is, for instance, a nice confection of sea slugs. The very idea of slug is, I know, off-putting, but slugs are only civvy snails without the MoD armour plating and the marine things are humble vegetables striving for animation. The same might almost be said of the visiting Chinese pop groups who play here some nights — aspirant Bee Gees with stage fright. Man Fu Kong's exterior dissembles the vacuum-pressed dragons and plastic chandeliers of its interior.

Chuen Cheng Ku turns that inside outside. An oriental totem pole on Wardour Street makes a polychrome proclamation that this is something Chinese, doubtless a restaurant. The dimsum (especially the shellfish in dough or in rice batter) are extravagant, the labyrinthine three floors of tables are not.

The menu includes dishes which are, improbably, as ambitious as those of Mr Kong or Poon's. They're probably not done as well as at those places, but they conspire to make this the best all-rounder: £26.

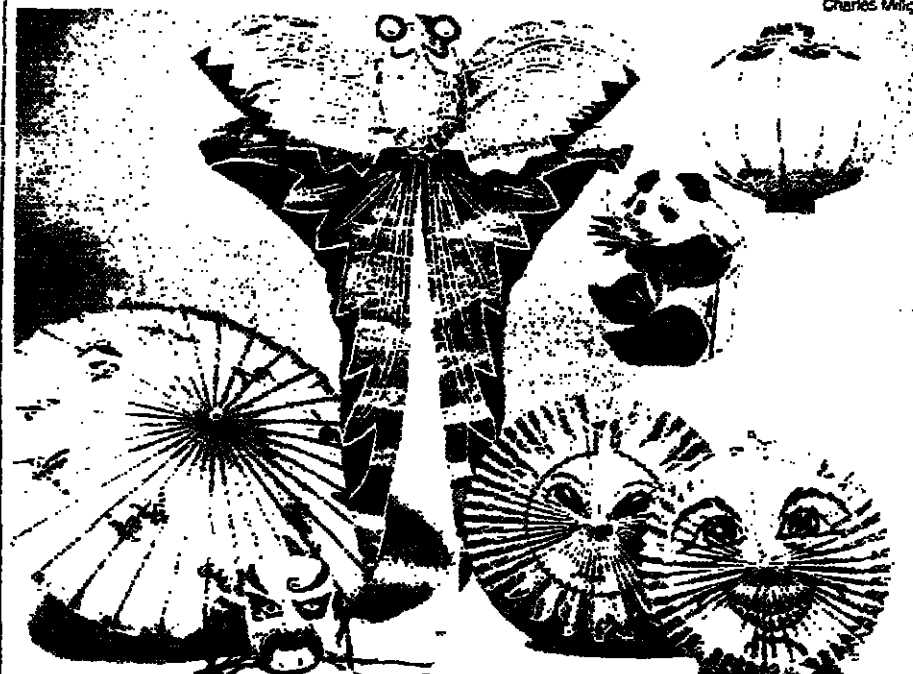
Mr Kong, 21 Lisle Street, WC2 (01-437 7341). Open every day, 12 noon-1.45am. Poon's, 4 Leicester Street, WC2 (01-437 1528). Open Mon to Sat, 12 noon-11.30pm. Closed Sun.

Fung Ching, 15 Lisle Street, WC2 (01-437 1539). Open every day 12 noon-11.45pm. Dragon Gate, 7 Gerrard Street, W1 (01-734 5154). Open every day 12 noon-2.15pm and 5.15-11.15pm. New World, 1 Gerrard Street, W1 (01-734 0677). Open every day 11am-11.15pm. Man Fu Kong, 29-30 Leicester Square, WC2 (01-839 4146). Open every day 11am-1am. Chuen Cheng Ku, 17 Wardour Street, W1 (01-437 1398). Open every day 11am-11.45pm.

SHOPPING

Good luck gifts for fans of the Orient

Charles McGinn



Nicole Swengley suggest some ideas for combining a London shopping trip this weekend with a touch of eastern carnival

Chinese trimmings: parasol, £4.25. Paperchase: mask, £2.75. Liberty: paper kite, £3.95. Paperchase: raffia panda decoration, £5.95. silk lantern, £9.95, paper lanterns, £1.30 each, all from Neal Street East

If you thought you had a rough ride last year, you may be pleased to know that the Chinese zodiac's Year of the Tiger, signifying a period of change and challenge, roared out this week and a time of harmony and tranquillity hopped in on Thursday under the auspices of the Year of the Rabbit.

As the traditional Chinese New Year festivities get under way in Soho this weekend, we've come up with a handful of gift ideas — and a small rabbit patch — to join in the celebrations and fun. True, you may not wish to welcome in the Chinese New Year with traditional congee broth and raw fish, but encouraging a few good luck spirits and turning over a new leaf could well be in all our interests.

Anyone who would enjoy seeing the traditional New Year Lion Dance will find this symbol of energy and valour leaping past the Neal Street East shop in Neal Street, Covent Garden, at around 1.30pm today. The dance starts and finishes at Poon's Restaurant in King Street, WC2, and all gifts of money given to the lion (Lai-see) will be donated to charity.

A demonstration of Tai Chi Chuan, the Chinese combination of exercise, self-defence and meditation, takes place with sabre and sword at midday today outside Smith's Restaurant, at the corner of Neal Street and Earlham and Shelton Streets and inside Neal Street East at 12.30pm (hand movements only). Oriental gifts and cards can be bought in the shop between 10am and 7pm today and from 11am to 6pm tomorrow.



Lucky rabbits: large Peter Rabbit, £75. Selfridges: stone rabbit doorknob, £30.10. The General Trading Company: grey alloy rabbit with gold coloured ears, £18.50, and Bunnikins soft toy rabbit, £12.50, both from Selfridges



China teaset: back row: "Lotus" dinner plate, £10.80. The Conran Shop: purple feather flowers, £1.45 per stem, white silk flowers, £1.35 per stem, fan, 95p, all from Neal Street East. Middle row: rice bowl, £2.65, antique Chinese teapot, £67, pair of slippers, £12.99, all from Neal Street East. Front row: blue and white tea cup, £7, bamboo boxes with rabbit and dragon designs, 99p each, chopstick rest, £1.35, pair of chopsticks, 35p, all from Neal Street East. Enamel pillboxes, £5 each from Harrods

THE TIMES COOK

Seasonal fishing for compliments

At the opening of the salmon fishing season and the end of pheasant shooting, Denis Curtis gives some exciting recipes

Diana Leach-Baxter



Pheasant quenelle with port wine sauce
1 uncooked pheasant
2 egg whites
12fl oz double cream
3oz cranberries
12fl oz port
2 teaspoons icing sugar
1 orange
1 tablespoon caster sugar
12fl oz game stock
Juice of half a lemon
1½oz unsalted butter
Salt and freshly ground pepper
Poach the cranberries in the port for two minutes. Cool. Cut the breasts and thigh meat from the pheasant. Skin and pass the flesh through a food processor with the egg whites. Rub the purée through a sieve (optional) into a bowl and push this bowl into crushed ice. Gradually, but vigorously, mix into the purée as much double cream as it will absorb — about 12oz. Season and chill.

Drain the cranberries (retaining the port) and crush them into a paste with the icing sugar. Form the fruit into 12 ovals using two teaspoons. Chill. Form the pheasant purée into 12 egg shapes with dessert spoons. (Surplus mousse can be shaped and frozen.)
Prise an opening in each quenelle with a knife and push a cranberry shape into each. Smooth over to seal. Chill.
Pare the peel pitilessly from one orange and cut into julienne. Blanch and drain and then poach in one tablespoon of water with one tablespoon of caster sugar until the liquid has evaporated. Squeeze the juice from the orange.
Heat two pints of water in a sauce pan and add salt. In this poach the quenelles gently (the bubbles should just break the surface). For four minutes each side.
Simultaneously, make the port wine sauce: pour the port

into a sauce pan with the juice of the orange. Boil until the liquid reduces to a thin syrup. Now add 12fl oz of game stock (made from the pheasant carcass) and boil to reduce by one-third. Adjust seasoning.
Add the lemon juice. Swirl into the sauce 1½oz chilled butter in small pieces. Place two quenelles on each serving plate and pour around two tablespoons of sauce. Garnish with the orange julienne.
To make the game stock, crush the carcass of the pheasant and place in an oven preheated to 400°F (gas mark 6) for 10 minutes. Drain away the fat and place the roasting pan over a high heat and in it turn the carcass with two sliced shallots, rolled in caster sugar, until the sugar caramelizes.
Place the pheasant and shallots in a large saucepan and deglaze the roasting pan with 10fl oz burgundy and add to reduce by one-third. Add one chopped carrot, two bay

leaves, a bunch of parsley, one teaspoon of thyme leaves, the chopped heart of celery and six crushed juniper berries. Cover with half water and half veal stock and boil together for 1½ hours. Strain.

Scallops of salmon in a cream sauce with tomatoes, grapes and noodles
1lb 8oz middle-cut salmon fillet
2 dessert spoons of finely chopped basil leaves (or 1 of ground dried basil)
3 tablespoons of olive oil
4 medium sized tomatoes, skinned, seeded and each cut into 6 slices
7oz black grapes, skinned and deseeded
6fl oz Gewurztraminer
5fl oz home-made chicken stock
12fl oz double cream
1½oz unsalted butter
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
6oz fresh ribbon (Tagliarini) noodles

Slice the salmon lengthwise into escalopes about 1/8 inch thick and about 3in by 2in in size. Place in a dish and season very lightly with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper.
Sprinkle the fish with basil and pour over the olive oil. Marinate for at least two hours, turning occasionally.
In a large saucepan of boiling water, place the egg noodles and cook until tender — about two minutes for fresh noodles. Add an egg cup of cold water to pan — removed from the heat — to arrest the cooking until the noodles are needed. Place a sauce pan over heat and when hot add the salmon and marinade and cook for just 30 seconds each side.

Remove the fish from the heat and keep warm. Deglaze the pan with 4oz of the wine and boil until reduced to a thin syrup. Add the chicken stock and boil again to a syrup.
Add 12fl oz of wine and bring to the boil for two minutes. Season lightly with sea salt and pepper. Stir in the sliced tomato and grapes. Drain the noodles and then add to the sauce.
Add a further 2oz of wine and bring to the boil. Remove from the heat and stir in 1½oz chilled butter in small pieces. Finally, stir in the salmon and serve on individual plates accompanied by a green salad.

Denis Curtis, our guest cook, is a writer and broadcaster.

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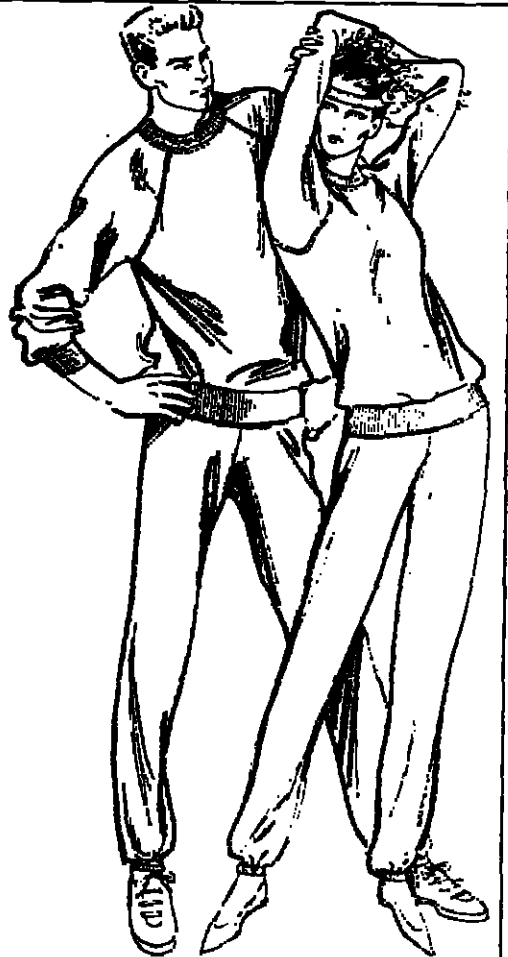
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THE ARTS

Dennis Potter said in his interview with Alan Yentob for *Arena* (BBC2) that when he joined the BBC in 1959 he was fascinated with the "lies" of television. In particular, a documentary he made as a young man about his own background in the Forest of Dean literally brought home to him the falsification — it is "betrayal" when compared with "art".

The obvious lie about most television reviewing is that it is written before the programme is shown. *Arena* seems to take an admirable relish in finishing programmes at the last moment so sometimes you review an incomplete film. The film I saw was all in black and white, had some commentary missing and had faded on the end a series of "reaction" shots of Yentob, probably shot without Potter. (Indeed, in some television interviews new questions are asked in afterthoughts to match the answers given by the subject.)

The unfinished film, however, seemed more appropriate for a writer who, with his use of inventive techniques and contrasting styles, has so consistently made his audiences aware of the *manufacture* of drama, revealing the "lies" by the technique which he calls, "bumping against the very rim of communication".

In his early work the bumping had a more overt political purpose, but in *The Singing Detective* the radical opposition of competing, interlocking narratives were directed towards the unmasking of the lies in an individual's "manufacture" of himself. The *Arena* programme both played the game of constructing a suitable identity for Potter (television "doing" a writer) and with a clever use of excerpts from his plays and documentaries suggested its falseness. Potter also took the opportunity to debunk the autobiographical myths that have resulted from his having the same disease as the "hero" of *The Singing Detective*. Highly articulate yet severely quiet, belying the savagery of his imagination, clear-faced, almost boyish, he is from that of Michael Gambon in the play.

A. H.

How television is looking at The Arts this weekend. Andrew Hislop (left) reviews *Arena* on BBC2 last night. John Higgins (right) previews this evening's Maria Callas Gala Concert, also on BBC2. Roger Berthoud (below) talks to the painter Anthony Green, entertaining subject of tomorrow's South Bank Show on LWT

Anthony Green: 'In a funny way, my pictures are about civilization and the family unit... what human experience and aspirations are made of'



Reaching Green pastures anew

Anthony Green, who is 47 and half French, has always wanted his paintings to be seen and enjoyed by quantities of people. Stage one was to show his almost voyeuristically intimate scenes of life *chez Green* each year at the Royal Academy's summer exhibitions: for an ex-Slade student that was virtually artistic suicide in the Sixties. Stage two was to produce a chatty book about his work, *A Green Part of the World*, which Thames & Hudson published in 1984 in a smallish, cheap (£6.95) format intended to tempt a kindly aunt to stuff it in a niece's Christmas stocking.

Now he is "thrilled to bits" to be reaching out to a television audience through a 60-minute film about him and his work which John Read has directed for tomorrow's *South Bank Show* on LWT: as a milestone it follows the purchase of his work in recent years by the Tate Gallery, the Arts Council and the British Council.

The film is a deliberate riposte to the Royal Academy's current and somewhat narrowly modernist exhibition of 20th-century British art,

whose omissions have infuriated Green. He especially resents the "writing out" of the Kitchen Sink school of social realists, led by John Bratby. "If I was Bratby I think I would stick pins in the selection committee," he commented in the *Highgate* flat where he has lived for most of his life.

He admires Francis Bacon for his clear colours and considers him (heretically) to be at heart a narrative painter, like himself, life with the Bacons. But he dislikes the turgid gloom of much-praised, quasi-teeny contemporary artists. "Kossoff and Auerbach are smashing artists, but that ploughed field quality, what I call buckets of muck, worries me. I don't think it's necessary."

"Gloom is the big lie of contemporary art. The implication is that those pictures alone speak the truth about the society they mirror. Yet everyone knows that the world is full of brightness, gaiety, colour and hope."

Green reckons he owes much to his French side, and certainly he is voluble, open, and articulate in a rather un-British way. It all goes back to his grandfather, of Dor-

dogne peasant stock, who came to London as a chef, worked with the great Escoffier and became the head chef at the Waldorf. Casimir Dupont's daughter — Anthony's mother — married an Englishman who had a tyre business in the Edgware Road but drank too much. "He was a dominant man who was mentally cruel to her: a lovable, sentimental monster."

They were divorced when he was 13. "The break-up made me very unhappy. But I could be sure of two things: my mother's love and of losing myself in painting and drawing. I think unhappiness sharpened the faculties. Then my mother remarried very happily. My stepfather was in the wholesale lobster market in Billingsgate."

Despite the prevailing lack of culture, young Green was a talented copyist of Mickey Mouse and Pluto, and on later regular visits to aunts and uncles near Paris was thrilled in the Louvre by the scale and skill of work by Delacroix, Géricault, Courbet, and David. Another decisive influence was Kyffin Williams, who introduced him to the work of van

Gogh (still his idol) and taught him art at Highgate School. At 16½ Green went for a successful interview with Sir William Coldstream, then Principal of the Slade. When in the later Fifties students there were excited by the scale and bravura of American abstract expressionism as first seen at the Tate Gallery, young Green found it all a bit empty compared with the no less vast canvases of Delacroix and co.

He achieved his breakthrough while spending a year in France after the Slade, where he had fallen deeply in love with Mary Cozens-Walker, a tall and beautiful fellow student. "The catalyst was dissatisfaction with what I was supposed to be doing. It seemed that worthwhile artists were doing art for art's sake, and the new art for art's sake was abstract expressionism."

"I said to myself, what is the most important thing in my life? I am an artist. I'm going to be an artist for the rest of my life. What is the most important thing? The answer is that I am in love and going to be married. So I asked myself if I should paint about that love, that passion, and set out to do so without any great theories, and in an

uninhibited way. I tried to throw off all the Slade drawing I had struggled to achieve — proficient enough to win the Tonks drawing prize — and to chuck off van Gogh and the clone Soutine I had been doing, and go back to childish, rather brutal images, painted very quickly."

Success came slowly, with the loyal support of Alec Gregory-Hood's Rowan Gallery, otherwise a bastion of abstractionism. Now his works cost from £5,000 to £18,000. The Japanese are his best customers: perhaps, he suspects, because they have a boisterous figurative tradition of imagery from everyday life. Later this year he is having a retrospective show in Tokyo and four major provincial cities. The Americans and Germans come next, no doubt seeing the Green world with all its imperfections as a microcosm of everyday life. "In a funny way my pictures are about civilization and the family unit — very unpopular stuff nowadays, but it's what human experience and aspirations are made of."

As viewers will discover on Sunday, Green makes a persuasive case, very entertainingly.

R. B.

There is a chance tonight to catch up on the form of four outstanding singers of the new generation in the *Maria Callas Gala Concert* (BBC2, 7.25pm). Aprile Millo, Anne Sofie von Otter, Thomas Hampson and Pavarotti were the four prizewinners last month of the Maria Callas Foundation in Frankfurt. All are around 30 and well established in their careers, so they could carry their medals and sing their arias with aplomb.

The least known of the four, as far as Britain is concerned, is the American baritone, Thomas Hampson, and to him go the major honours. The voice has a top with a youthful sheen to it, as Figaro's "Largo al factotum" proved, but his height and his good looks will fit him for roles more romantic than that. There is Gaglianelli, for example, which he played in the Jonathan Miller *Cozi* for TV and which he repeated here in "Il core vi dono", joined by Anne Sofie von Otter in the choicest item of the evening.

Miss von Otter's roguish looks did not suit her too well for Marguerite's "D'Amour l'ardente flamme", but her account of Cenerentola's closing Rondo suggested someone should be mounting Rossini's fairy tale for her right now. Aprile Millo is a Verdi soprano constructed on a battleship lines with a voice to match. Pavarotti's *La cabaletta* (Rossini) was much in favour in this transmission: west better than Green's aria from *Eugene Onegin*.

Two clips from a recital given by Callas herself in Hamburg in 1962 framed the concert. Wavering sound and stolid filming did not help Carner's Habenera but the videos should be whirling for her account of Eboli's "O don fatale".

The whole is accompanied by a helpful and informative commentary by Humphrey Burton and some useless clips of the young stars at play: Pavarotti holding up a dead pheasant outside Milan and Hampson jogging through an improbably sunlit Switzerland.

J. H.

Young love and old jealousies

THEATRE

School for Wives
Lyttelton

Following Cheek by Jowl's modern-dress version of *Le Cid* and the Edinburgh Lyceum's Lallans translation of *Le Malade Imaginaire*, this third assault on the fortress of French classicism enlists Molière as an honorary feminist.

I have never seen the play before, and the dominant impact is of how far, in craftsmanship and human understanding, *L'École des Femmes* exceeds Restoration variations on the theme of the jealous old cuckold and the child bride.

The obvious comparison is with *The Country Wife*, which borrows numerous details from Molière, including the smuggled love letter and the central device of showing ignorance backfiring on its instigator. But where Wycherley's Mr Pinchwife is an anecdotal victim who exists solely to have horns fixed to his mean old head, Molière's Arnolphe is a fully realized character: generous, a loyal friend, even capable of love. He may have brought up his ward Agnes in ignorance so as to exercise total control over her as his wife, but he also has a well-developed intellectual defence for doing so.

It is a policy that arises from the 17th-century preoccupation with the uses of education, and the belief in the newborn human being as a



Agnes (Julia Ford) confesses to her guardian (David Ryall) how she met her lover Horatio

tabula rasa best preserved from the corrupting graffiti of experience.

In Di Trevis's production the argument and precision-turned intrigue come swathed in an atmosphere of decorative romance that displaces the comedy and seem intended to enthrone Agnes as the play's presiding spirit.

Julia Ford plays her with a well-judged balance of trust and good nature, gradually overtaken by apprehension as she learns the marital servitude awaiting her, and finally casting Arnolphe off without the least trace of vindictiveness. It is, however, an idealized performance which hardly admits the possibility that she might become a victim.

She has the full weight of the production to protect her from that languorous, baroque strings heralding her entrances, an astrological sky cloth (by Pamela Howard)

featuring Leo and Virgo, which opens up as a drawbridge to heaven once she is paired with her beloved Horatio (Neil Dudgeon). David Ryall plays Arnolphe in the British manner as an over-confident *bourgeois* riding for a fall. He does not push this to grotesque excess. His bursts of friendship are genuine: so is his gentle treatment of Agnes for as long as she submits to him. What is missing is the sight of a man who has come to middle-age as an amused spectator of human folly, finding himself in the role of a fool.

With his nasal whine, and inoffensively smug lectures on domestic discipline, Mr Ryall incarnates the character from the start. He is extremely effective once the action gets moving and every step he takes to safeguard Agnes from Horatio results in the lover getting closer to his prize. Mr Ryall is a master of stunned

silences and apologetic shock. Where he fails is in the crucial moment when, at the height of his anger, he discovers his real feelings for Agnes and, for the first time, refers to love.

Robert David MacDonald's translation achieves an impressive English equivalent of the Alexandrine line: a generally effortless flow of rhyming iambs combining verbal and metrical wit. What remains unfocused is the verbal tone, which slips between modern speech, Shakespearean quotation, and archaisms.

As for comic mechanics, Miss Trevis offers numerous strokes of witty invention, such as the sight of Arnolphe tripping over the stone that wrapped up the fatal letter.

Such moments, however, are isolated, and the prevailing impression is of a marked lack of comic energy.

Irving Wardle

A Wholly Healthy
Glasgow
Royal Exchange

Iain Heggie's rich, unpredictable comedy was a Mobil prize winner in 1985 and, though it is scheduled to run for only 2½ weeks at this theatre, I cannot believe so original, inventive and joyful a piece will then vanish.

At the Spartan Health Club somewhere in Glasgow, the masseur and the senior instructor have established a profitable system that supplies the instructor with extra cash and the masseur with his nooky. Their realm is suddenly threatened by the arrival of a pink-cheeked, wide-eyed youngster, fresh from his initiation training course at Pontefract.

The bent masseur is thrown by Murdo's eagerness to do well, his transfixing honesty and angelic trust in the wisdom of his instructors. The more devoted Charley nets the lad in a web of lying praise but even he cannot cope with Murdo's confession that he is not in the business for money. The play's title is his aim. He wants to make Glasgow "a city perfectly proportioned, sinuous but not over devel-

oped physiques... a city of reposeful but alert minds". The hurdles obstructing this laudible but ludicrous aim — not only in the health club — and his own cautiously blossoming confidence provide the comic material of the funniest play I have seen for months.

Iain Heggie, currently writer in residence at the Royal Exchange, creates fantastic idiomatic speeches, much of them unprintable in a family newspaper (though the script is published by a new imprint, Oberon Books of Birmingham). Two of the characters speak in such broad "Glesga" accents that one like a handful of leather balls bouncing downstairs. But the car soon grows used to this and can take in such dancing phrases as "Don't hatchet my happiness", the ambiguous "après-massage" and the rhythmic insults, convoluted but uncommonly precise.

Directed by Richard Wilson with an alert eye for the small movements that flesh out emotion, the cast are Tom Watson, Gerard Kelly and Paul Higgins. I do not expect to see their performances bettered.

Jeremy Kingston

LSO/
Rozhdestvensky
Barbican

The London orchestras, striving to bring more coherence and memorability to their seasons, are increasingly pinning their hopes on thematic concert series (or "festivals" as they are usually, portentously, entitled). The latest, *Stravinsky Plus*, comes from the LSO, with lunchtime contributions from Guildhall students and a Barbican foyer exhibition, *Dearest Bubushkin*, depicting the great man at work and play.

Each of the LSO's six concerts places Stravinsky's music beside other compositions written in the year. In this latest one, "1910" and *The Firebird* was preceded by Elgar's Violin Concerto, which perhaps demonstrates that even programmes worthily attempting to be logical and didactic sometimes end up being merely spurious.

In this context, Elgar was clearly meant to be seen as the Last Romantic; Stravinsky as the New Modern. Unfortunately, our ears tell us that *The Firebird* fits comfortably into the fantastical-ballet tradition of Tchaikovsky and Rimsky-

Striking out on her own

Being the daughter of a bigwig at New York's Carnegie Hall has its advantages when you're a budding concert pianist, says 23-year-old Sara Wolfenson, whose second London recital at the Barbican last week won her such excellent notices. You do get to meet your musical heroes socially. Better, they become friends. Best of all, they feel obliged to hear you play. But if they don't like your sound, says Sara, you're no nearer the concert platform.

Most of them don't handle very well the information that her father, James D. Wolfenson, is chairman of the board at Carnegie Hall. But, as a banker who loves music, his extra-curricular role at Carnegie is purely a fund-raising one. "I would never tell anyone back at school," she says — she's in her sixth and final postgraduate year at New York's famous hot house of talent, the Juilliard.

In any case, Ms Wolfenson, an ebullient and petite girl with humorous eyes, a mass of dark brown curls and child-size hands, is doing well off her own back. She made her London debut in 1985 playing with the London Chamber Orchestra; she returned to the Barbican this month, and plans a third Barbican recital this spring.

She took up the piano at

Russian colour,
British passion

CONCERTS

Korsakov, while it is the Elgar concerto, with its secretive and complex web of connected themes, that displays the intellectual rigour and psychological sophistication which became the quintessence of 20th-century music.

Looking at matters more straightforwardly, however, these are two works that Gennadi Rozhdestvensky obviously loves to conduct, and his ebullient presence is the other factor unifying these concerts. The overwhelming impression when he directs *The Firebird* is that it is being interpreted by someone who has lived this work in the theatre, who has the movement, the colour and the pace of the dancers in mind throughout.

He plays on the quirky theatricality of the linking episodes (so much more pronounced in the original score than in the more often heard suite version), and gives the woodwind principals plenty of

space to find the ironic nub of their solos. He was rewarded with some highly characteristic playing of the double-bassoons were (perhaps inevitably) most memorable.

Rozhdestvensky's view of Stravinsky is a broad and genial one; the analytical perception of a Boulez or the scrupulous luminosity of an Abbado is not for him. But one should not underestimate the precision of the technical control he exerts, nor (although it sounds hackneyed) the special quality that a top class Russian can bring to this music. That will be the ultimate attraction of *Stravinsky Plus*.

Ida Haendel was the violin soloist in the Elgar concerto, bringing to it a characteristic passion and strength. She seized on the *andante*, in particular, in a way that was far removed from the stiff upper-lip reticence that still occasionally passes for good Elgar style.

To this Rozhdestvensky responded with a big, opulent orchestral accompaniment, perhaps turning the "windflower" themes into somewhat sturdy plants, but stopping well short of grandiloquence.

Within the context of such an individual conception, Miss Haendel's occasional technical problems did not seem important; on the other hand, the numerous moments of imperfect rapport between soloist and orchestra were frequently intrusive.

Richard Morrison

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Don't miss the LSO concerts in the Stravinsky Plus series at the Barbican Hall (Feb 1, 8, 12, 15 & 22). Conducted by Gennadi Rozhdestvensky. For full details see today's Times Concerts Section.

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CLASSICAL
RECORDS

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When Meg Peacocke writes:

James Wood

rare photograph of Larkin reading a poem in 1982, one of several poignant pictures in the book, and (right) a self-portrait.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

In another story, the members of a country club in Managua have such

John Fuller is a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford. Speedfall, the character he has created to be the mainstay of these stories, is a philosophy don at an

live these thin little lives or is it a wholly artificial convention? Either way, it is hard to see who, outside the academic ghetto, could be entertained by these scenes of petty jealousy. Geriatric school stories are not really appealing.

Anne Barnes

JAZZ RECORDS

John Dankworth, whose confident alto saxophone solos (by Parker out of Konitz) stand out on every track di-

Two drummers, Jack Parnell and Eric Delaney, won the right to direct the sessions of, respectively, 1953 and '55, but supporting cast remained largely unchanged — although compositions supplied by

of self-conscious modernism. Each contrasts are the real harm of records which come to the contemporary listener with all the poignancy of a time capsule.

Richard Williams

Breathy, Bob Geldof style: Shriekback's Barry Andrews

ROCK RECORDS

Contrasts abound: the huge, naive polyrhythmic textures of nightmare noises and blasting brass section on "Black Light Trap" set the speaker cornering a rattling, while "Pretty Little Things" is constructed around the most fragile of plinking percussion noises. The quiet malevolence of "The Repukile and I" gives way to the jocular fizz of "Sticky Jazz". And like the calm soothing chorus of

menant tradition to the techniques of electro/hip hop. *Rome Remains Rome* is a tremendously imaginative patchwork of music and eccentric Teutonic rap. Czukay even manages on "Blessed Easter" to blend extracts of the Pope's Easter message with Jah Wobble's sleazy jazz bass into a pleasingly harmonious whole.

David Sinclair

Cavin Bell

Worlds apart when the cards are down

The Experts vote: one
amond, 59, one club, 41.
The Teachers vote: one
amond, 92, one club, 8.
The 4-4-3-2 hands also
show that the experts and se

asked for their responses
one heart on:
♦K 4 2
♥—
♠Q 10 7 5 2
♣K 8 7 3 2

Eighty-eight per cent of the teachers were prepared to set sea in the leaking boat provided by their minors. But where it is evidently correct to respond at the two

Jeremy Flint

Master squares up to a giant-killing

... proceeds with truly
... sangfroid. By pro-
... c2 with his King
... threatens to win with
... knocking out the props

R14	R5	41	ex76ap	R26
Bc2	Rd4	42	gn4	Kc5
Bp4	Ne7	45	o4	Nf5
Bb3	Kc2	47	Ka4	h5
Kf6	Mb5+	48	Ka5	b4
Ka24	Kb3	51	Kg5	Ng7
Kf6	Nb5+	53	Kg5	Ka3
Bxc6		55	Ka5	Kb4

Black resigns

Raymond Keene

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1170

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, February 5. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, February 7.

ACROSS
1 Sacred beetle (6)
4 Downpour (6)
7 Information (4)
8 Double magnum
9 Spanish adventure
(12)
15 Formal relinquish-
ment (6)
16 *Panthera onca* (6)
17 Royal verse make-
up (4,8)
23 Canoe (8)
24 Play lead (4)
25 Germanic vowel
(6)
26 Hostage price (6)

DOWN

- 1 Lather (4)
- 2 Empower (9)
- 3 Trinket (5)
- 4 Challenges (5)
- 5 Zodiac scales (5)
- 6 Sea bird dung
fertiliser (5)
- 10 Subdue (5)
- 11 Vestige (5)
- 12 Intrepid (9)
- 13 Uncommon (4)
- 14 Exchange (4)
- 18 Repugnance (5)
- 19 Jewelled headress
- 20 Apportion (5)
- 21 Oarsman (5)
- 22 Wander (4)

SOLUTION TO NO
ACROSS: 1 Beadlie
cisco 15 Ethnic 16
24 Zero 25 Crayon

DOWN: 1 Bond 2
6 Lilac 10 Foist 11
19 Every 20 Loden

A 26x26 crossword puzzle grid. The grid is composed of white squares (for letters) and black squares (for empty space). The numbers 1 through 26 are placed in the starting squares of the words, indicating the row and column for each word's beginning. The numbers are: 1 (row 1, col 1), 2 (row 1, col 2), 3 (row 1, col 3), 4 (row 1, col 4), 5 (row 1, col 5), 6 (row 1, col 6), 7 (row 2, col 1), 8 (row 2, col 8), 9 (row 3, col 1), 10 (row 3, col 10), 11 (row 3, col 11), 12 (row 3, col 12), 13 (row 3, col 13), 14 (row 4, col 1), 15 (row 4, col 15), 16 (row 4, col 16), 17 (row 5, col 1), 18 (row 5, col 2), 19 (row 5, col 3), 20 (row 5, col 4), 21 (row 5, col 5), 22 (row 5, col 22), 23 (row 6, col 1), 24 (row 6, col 24), 25 (row 7, col 1), 26 (row 7, col 26).

SOLUTION TO NO 1169

ACROSS: 1 Manual 4 Junkie 7 Nick 8
Commando 9 Creeper 11 Querc 12 Bonilla-
baisse 15 Vault 16 Vehicle 20 Solenoid 21
Turn 22 Try out 23 Dactyl

DOWN: 1 Minicab 2 Niche 3 Lycee
4 Jamb 5 Kennels 6 Elope 10 Pilot
11 Quash 13 Usually 14 Eternal 15 Visit
17 Ended 18 Crisis 19 Bolt

The winners of prize concise No 1164 are:
Mr J. Jolly, High Street, Newarthill, Strathclyde,
Scotland; and Mrs J. Roberts, Touchstone Lane,
Chard, Somerset.

64 (last Saturday's prize concise)
 Rumpole 7 Note 8 Downfall 9 San Fran-
 cipod 17 Son et lumière 23 Offender
 Hedera
 Strakhan 3 Elder 4 Rowan 5 Mufu
 Orgi 12 Supersede 13 Odds 14 Mess 18 Offer
 Mirth 22 Iota

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THE WEEK AHEAD



FILMS

JUNGLE BOOK: Harrison Ford is reunited with the director of *Witness*, Peter Weir, in *The Mosquito Coast* (PG), an atmospheric adventure based on Paul Theroux's novel about a family taking refuge from fast foods and vulgarity in the rivers and jungle of Central America. For Ford, the film takes him further away from the comic-strip simplicities of Indiana Jones; for Weir, Theroux's story echoes his usual concern for misplaced cultures. Helen Mirren plays Ford's wife, Odeon Haymarket (01-930 2738), from Thursday.



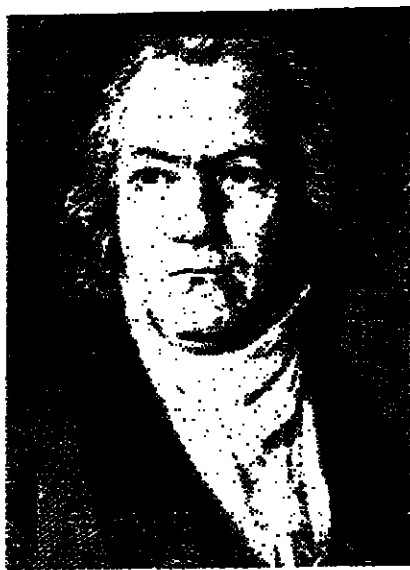
RADIO

AFTER HENRY: Patricia Hayes first became a familiar voice on radio as the schoolboy detective, Henry Bones, in *Children's Hour*. She later specialized in comedy, spoofing for Ted Ray and Tony Hancock, before announcing herself as a straight actress in *Edna the Inebriate Woman*. She is in the West End with *The House of Bernarda Alba* and returns to radio to play one of the most enduring Dickens characters, Sairey Gamp, in a new 10-part production of *Martin Chuzzlewit*. Radio 4, tomorrow, 7-8pm.



COUNTRY MUSIC

IN THE FAMILY: The Judds are the country singing mother and daughter from Morrill, Kentucky whose rise to million-selling status in the last two years carries all the hallmarks of an epic fairy tale. Wynonna (left) and her mother Naomi developed a singularly pure and intuitive harmonizing style that has struck a chord with a new generation of country devotees attracted not least by the couple's unpretentious lack of showy Nashville commercialism. They make their British debut tomorrow at the London Palladium (01-437 7373).



CONCERTS

ODE TO JOY: Ludwig van Beethoven and his Ninth Symphony are the subject of *The Beethoven Experience*, "a weekend of musical enjoyment and discovery" presented by Roger Norrington and the London Classical Players. The event takes a similar format to last year's *Haydn Experience* and comprises three days of talks and recitals culminating in a full performance of the symphony, using period instruments. Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room, London SE1 (01-928 3191), Friday to Sunday, February 8.



FILMS ON TV

FAIR SEX: Ida Lupino, British-born daughter of the comedian Stanley Lupino, has had a long Hollywood career as an actress, often playing strong-minded women, and she is also one of the handful of women who have produced and directed films. Her various talents are celebrated in a BBC2 season which starts with her role as Humphrey Bogart's moll (above) in the 1941 film, *High Sierra* (Friday, 11.15pm-1am). To come are *The Edge of the World*, which she directed, and *Private Hell 36*, on which she was the co-writer.



THEATRE

TOUR DE FORCE: Frances de la Tour plays the American dramatist, Lillian Hellman, in *Liebert*, a one-woman play by William Luce based on Hellman's memoirs and charting her 30-year relationship with the writer, David Liebert. Hellman wrote three books of autobiography, the accuracy of which has fuelled a long-running controversy. Directed by Corin Redgrave, the show gets a West End run after being tried out last year on Sunday nights. Fortune Theatre (01-836 2288), from Wednesday.

CONCERTS

MITCHELL'S MOZART: Madeline Mitchell plays various violin works by Mozart, including the Sonata K 580 and 528, the Variations K 595. David Ward is at the piano. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Today, 7.30pm.

STRAVINSKY PLUS: The Barbican's series continues with Gennadi Rozhdestvensky conducting the LSO in Stravinsky's *Agon*, Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé*, and Viktoras Posnikoff's solos in Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No 1. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-628 8795). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

PREVIN/RPO II: André Previn conducts the RPO in Berlioz's *Le Corsaire Overture* and *Symphonie fantastique*, and this all-French programme is completed by Alicia de Larrocha soloing in Ravel's G major Piano Concerto. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191). Mon, 7.30pm.

MOZART MASS: Mozart's Mass in C minor K 427 is performed by the London Philharmonic Choir, Orchestra and soloists under Franz Wälschli-Most. It is prefaced by Schubert's Symphony No 4 "Tragic". Festival Hall, Tues, 7.30pm.

WAND/BBC SO: Two symphonies, Mozart's No 40 and Tchaikovsky's No 6 "Patétique", are played by the BBC SO under Günter Wand. Festival Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

PREVIN/RPO II: The RPO is again conducted by André Previn, this time in Mozart's *Sine die* and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 5, and Rudi Lupo solos in Mozart's Piano Concerto K 453. Festival Hall, Thurs, 7.30pm.

FREMAUX/RPO: Louis Frémaux's turn to conduct the RPO, in Saint-Saëns's Symphony No 3, with John Birch joining in on the organ. Before that, Jeremy Menuhin solos in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 5 "Emperor". Barbican Centre, Fri, 7.45pm.

FILMS

OPENINGS

THE KEEP (18): Cock-eyed Second World War fantasy, made in 1963, in which German troops wake up a supernatural being in a Romanian fortress. Directed by Michael Mann, creator of the TV show *Miami Vice*, with Scott Glenn, Alberta Watson. ICA Cinematheque, from Mon.

WHEN THE WIND BLOWS (18): Animated version of Raymond Briggs's best-seller about a placid old couple, quintessentially British, facing a nuclear attack. Directed by Jimmy Mursami, John Mills and Peggy Ashcroft provide the voices of Jim and Hilda. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527), Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-836 8279), and cinemas around the country, from Fri.

A JUDGMENT IN STONE (15): Ruth Rendell's novel about a plain Jane illiterate who becomes a killer, carelessly filmed in Canada by Ousama Rawi, a commercials veteran, with Rita Tushingham. Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5096), Cannon Odeon Kensington (01-602 6644), from Fri.

JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS (15): Well-behaved tearjerker with Mary Tyler Moore as the woman forced from her domestic shell by her husband's infidelity. With Ted Danson; written and directed by Allan Burns. Cannon Panton Street (01-930 0631), from Fri.

SELECTED

THE NAME OF THE ROSE (18): Umberto Eco's intellectual thriller set in a medieval monastery. Strongly atmospheric, with Sean Connery as the monkish Miss Marple harrying out an arcane mystery. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527).

DOWN BY LAW (15): Jim Jarmusch's very comedy about three misfits who escape from a New Orleans prison; with a scene-stealing performance by Roberto Benigni.

SCREEN ON THE HILL (01-222 0220), Screen on the Hill (01-435 3366).

THE SACRIFICE (15): Andrei Tarkovsky's testament—a starkly beautiful parable, shot in Sweden, with Erland Josephson as the intellectual hero facing the world's end. Lumiere (01-836 0691).

GALLERIES OPENINGS

JOHN HOYLAND: New pictures and prints by this endlessly innovative doyen of decorative abstract painting. Waddington Galleries, 2 & 34 Cork Street, London W1 (01-437 8611). From Wed.

GERALD SCARFE: Stage and film set designs for *Orpheus in the Underworld* and *The Wall*, as well as drawings of actors, made by the infamous caricaturist. Lyttelton Circle Foyer, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 2033). From Mon.



Felix Nussbaum's Self Portrait With Jewish Identity Card (above) is one of many striking paintings and sculptures made by the victims of Nazism. Nussbaum himself died at Auschwitz in 1944. Works by other Jewish artists are included in *Where To Now?*, accompanying a photo-documentary survey of the life of diarist Anne Frank. At Adamant Gallery, Princess Street, Manchester (061 236 9422).

THE ROBERT AND LISA SAINSBURY COLLECTION: An exhibition of recent acquisitions and family portraits. Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, Norwich (0603 56161). From Tues.

BARRY CRAIG (1902-1951): Retrospective of a fine landscape painter. New Art Centre, 41 Sloane Street, London SW1 (01-235 5844). From Thurs.

SELECTED

BRITISH ART IN THE 20TH CENTURY: Paul Nash emerges as a major artist in this huge survey containing scores of first-rate paintings and sculptures from Sickert and Epstein to Bruce McLean and Barry Flanagan. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-734 9052).

SALON DES REFUSES: Pictures by artists who didn't make it into the Royal Academy's survey, including Ceri Richards, William Scott, Christopher Wood and L.S. Lowry. Albemarle Gallery, 16 Albemarle Street, London W1 (01-493 7968).

PHOTOGRAPHY

WALTER NURNBERG: The doyen of industrial photographers celebrates his 80th birthday this year with his remarkable pictures that have given industry an attractive face. National Museum of Photography, Princes View, Bradford.

TOWARDS A BIGGER PICTURE: And perhaps towards a bigger space, this show marks the expansion of the V&A Photography Gallery into adjacent quarters with a display of contemporary British photography. V&A Museum, Kensington, London SW7 (01-589 6371).

IMAGE OF THE TRAIN: Stieglitz, Kertész, Cartier-Bresson and a galaxy of others demonstrate how trains have influenced almost every aspect of life. Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (01-589 3455).

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: One last performance of *Lucia di Lammermoor* tonight at 7.30pm with June Anderson and Alfredo Kraus. The rest of the week is devoted to the revised *Rosentzvalier* (Mon, Thurs and Feb 7 at 6.30pm). Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Faust returns to St Martin's Lane at the end of the week (first night Feb 7, 7.30pm) with Ian Judge's gripping production of Gounod's opera retaining much of its original cast. Tonight, Wed and Fri at 7.30pm: Jonathan Miller's new *Tosca*, updated to Nazi-occupied Rome; on Thurs at 7pm another chance to see Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades*. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

SCOTTISH OPERA: On Thurs at 7.15pm another chance to see John Cox's new production of *Der fliegende Holländer*. *Figaro* on Wed and Feb 7 (also 7.15pm) in a revival conducted by Graeme Jenkins. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234).

OPERA 80: Tour continues with new productions of *Rigoletto* and *Cinderella*. Tonight, *Rigoletto* at St Austell's Coliseum (072 681 4004) and then during the week at Paignton's Festival Theatre (0803 558641). (*Rigoletto* on Tues, *Cinderella* on Wed) and Poole's Arts Centre (0202 685222). (*Rigoletto* on Thurs and Feb 7; *Cinderella* on Fri). All performances start at 7.30pm.

ROCK

ELVIS COSTELLO AND THE CONFEDERATES: After the residency in London, Costello and his American band go on general release. Tonight, Newcastle City Hall (091 261 2606); Tomorrow, Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590); Tuesday, St David's Hall, Cardiff (0222 371236); Wednesday, Colston Hall, Bristol (0272 291768).



Face of today, scenes from the past: Michael Palin (left) and Oona Kirsch and Edward Rawle-Hicks from *East of Ipswich*

Bright and beached memoirs

Michael Palin readily admits that his new television film, *East of Ipswich*, is heavily autobiographical, but he wants to make it clear that not everything that happens to his gawky 17-year-old hero is drawn from life. Especially not the sexual adventures.

But the father in the film is rather like Palin's father, dragging his offspring round local churches when the lad would rather be sipping the local gin. And the boarding house, with its dragon landlady, is very like the boarding house where the teenage Palin and his family spent summer holidays in the 1950s.

East of Ipswich is a gentle, nostalgic comedy located in an almost forgotten world of coffee bars and jazz clubs and hearty vicars holding "sausage sizzles" on the beach. Palin does a very good line in funny vicars but resisted the temptation to play this one. He felt it would be a distraction to have his Monty Python face turning up in the middle of a drama that is essentially understated.

The film is a bit of a departure for Palin, one of the few things he has written and not appeared in; also one of the few things, apart from *Ripping Yarns*, he has done without his long-time writing partner, Terry Jones. Closest in spirit to *East of Ipswich* was probably Palin's contribution to *Great Railway Journeys*, another affectionate look at Britain tinged with memories of times past.

Palin is aware of the dangers of writing in "a kind of irrelevant nostalgic niche" but says that when he does something contemporary he finds himself forced into rush judgements and he doesn't want to use his work to make moral points. But if *East of Ipswich* avoids moralizing, it does have a serious theme, which Palin describes as "the terrible anxieties of a boy growing up who is not allowed to grow up" through parental disapproval as well as his own ignorance.

It was filmed last year in Southwold, during a less than flaming June when

the actors were more in danger of acquiring goose pimples than sun tans. "A pretty mad thing to do, trying to capture the English summer," says Palin. "Even the dogs were wearing overcoats." At least there were not too many people about, to get in the way of the cameras.

Southwold may not be Blackpool but Palin has a lot of time for it. He went there four years running as a boy and goes back regularly to see his mother, who settled there. "It is still a very quiet and retiring place, where the people don't like to be noticed. Goodness knows what they will make of the film." It was in Southwold that the young Palin, like his alter ego in *East of Ipswich*, discovered girls and one girl in particular. He lost track of her for five years, and then they met again, and she became his wife.

Peter Waymark

East of Ipswich is on BBC2, tomorrow, 10.10-11.25pm.

FILMS ON TV



● Woody Allen meets Shakespeare and Chekhov and pays homage to Ingmar Bergman in *Smiles of a Summer Night* in *A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy*, his 1982 film which is having its British TV premiere. It is a lyrical, melancholic piece which follows the romantic permutations of three couples spending the weekend at a farmhouse in upstate New York. The cast includes Mia Farrow (above) and Allen himself. Channel 4, tomorrow, 11pm-12.40am.

NICHOLAS RAY: The BBC2 season continues today with two double bills. *A Woman's Secret* (1949), starring Melvyn Douglas, is combined with

another thriller, *On Dangerous Ground* (1951), with Robert Ryan as an obsessive cop (2-4.40pm); and the extraordinary Western, *Johnny Guitar* (1954), pairs with *Party Girl* (1958), a pungent tale of Chicago gangsters (8.55pm-1.30am).

THE GREEN MAN (1956): Alastair Sim as a hired assassin trying to bump off Raymond Hurday but thwarted by George Cole's blundering salesman. An amiable black comedy from Frank Launder and Sidney Gilliat. BBC1, Thurs, 2.05-3.20pm.

THE BEST MAN (1964): Henry Fonda and Cliff Robertson battling for Presidential nomination in a gripping political drama by Gore Vidal. Channel 4, Thurs, 2.30-4.20pm.

KISS OF DEATH (1947): Tense, location-shot thriller of the New York underworld with Victor Mature as a stool pigeon and Richard Widmark making a brilliant screen debut as a sniggering psychopath. Channel 4, Fri, 10.30pm-12.20am.

STATE OF THE ART: Feminists take centre stage as the modern art series homes on in sexuality. But American artist Eric Fischl says voyeurism is essential. Channel 4, tomorrow, 8.15-9.15pm.

THE MAN WHO CARED FOR CHILDREN: First of two Horizon programmes on the psychologist, Dr Bruno Bettelheim, who survived the Nazi death camps and made his name treating disturbed children in Chicago. BBC2, Mon, 8.10-9pm.

UP LINE: Quirky comedy-thriller from Howard (Rock Follies) Schuman about three alternative comedians involved in pyramid selling. With Nigel Terry (from *Caravaggio*), Alexei Sayle and Hugh Laurie. Channel 4, Wed, 10-11pm.

SCREECH RRRRII CLANG: *Newsround Extra* celebrates 50 years of Dandy and Beano. BBC1, Fri, 4.55-5.10pm.

RADIO

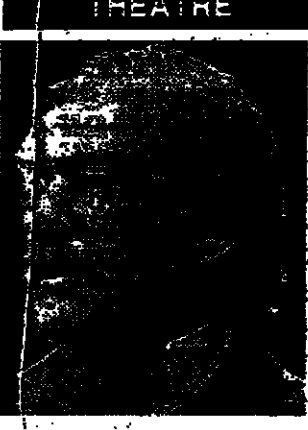
THE ENVY OF THE STRANGER: Fast-moving thriller by Caroline Graham with Isla Blair as the star of a radio phone-in threatened by a sick knife (Jonathan Toller) who wants to get into the media. Radio 4, today, 7-8.30pm.

ONE DRAIN TOO MANY: Timely echoes of the notorious Guinness take-over of Distillers as Derek Cooper ponders the future of Britain's liquid gold — Scotch whisky. Radio 4, today, 10.15-10.45pm.

FLIGHTS OF FANTASY: For by Diane Whalley about a middle-aged housewife (Lesley Nichol) who takes a fantasy journey to escape her dull marriage. But the next week keeps breaking it. Radio 4, Tues, 3-4pm.

UNA, VILLAGE IN TUSCANY: A radio score with the world premiere of a 300-year-old opera by Scarlatti, discovered last year in the Vatican Library. A comic romance for a cast of six, it was never performed because of a Papal ban on secular entertainments. Charles Medford conducts the London Baroque. Radio 3, Thurs, 7.30-10.25pm.

THEATRE



● Michael Gambon (above), who gave one of the television performances of 1986 as Denzil Potter's Staging Detective, leads a cast directed by Alan Ayckhorne in *A View From the Bridge*, the play by Arthur Miller about a New York longshoreman destroying himself and his family through a misplaced love. Cotswold (01-928 2252). Previews from Fri. First night Feb 12.

OPENINGS

THE GUEST ROOM: Fenella Fielding, Garry Cooper and Vincent Ebrahim, in a new play by James Hogan. Violent neo-fascist confronts an Asian immigrant and finds his ideas changing. The Old Red Lion, St John Street, London EC1 (01-537 7816). Preview Tues, opens Wed.

SCRAPE OFF THE BLACK: Jill Gascoine, Kate Williams, Gary McDonald, Chris Tummings, in an East End family drama by Tunde Kofu. Directed by Philip Hodley. Theatre Royal Stratford East, London E15 (01-534 0310). Previews from Fri, opens Feb 10.

LARGO DESOLATO: London premiere of Tom Stoppard's adaptation of a play by the Czech writer, Václav Havel. Geoffrey Beavers plays a dissident writer in a totalitarian state. Orange Tree, Richmond (01-940 3633). Preview Thurs, opens Fri.

SCOUTS' HONOUR: Premiere of a farce by Christopher Douglas, directed by Mike Bradwell, with Nigel Planer and John Fortune. Lyric Hammersmith (01-741 2311). Previews from Thurs, opens Feb 8.

SELECTED

THE CID: Cheek by Jowl's marvellous resurrection of Corneille's masterpiece. The Love v Honour struggle made human and witty by a talented company. Donmar Warehouse (01-240 8230).

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers. Bookings: Anne Whitehouse. Concerts: Max Hetherington. Books: John Packer. Films: Geoff Brown. Galleries: Ruth Lee. Theatre: Peter Waymark. Listings: David Lee. Music: John Packer. News: David Packer. Photographs: Peter Packer. Reviews: Peter Packer.

THE ANCHOR: A Nelsonian preacher's past explored by his congregation to settle old scores. Theatres (01-628 8266).

WILSON'S WILSON: Depressing meditation on a working romance. Polanski's Polanski drama *Wilson* (01-928 3191).

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ENTERTAINMENTS

THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE

Open to all with free exhibitions and live music. Coffee Shop, Bookshop, and more. The South Bank Centre is a place where you can enjoy the best of London's culture in one place.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Time	Event
7.30pm	POPULAR CLASSICS. London Symphony Orchestra. Conducted by Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.
7.30pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Conducted by Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.
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QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Orchestra of St. John's Smith Square. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Monday 2 February at 7.30pm. Conductor: Kazuo Ohashi. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY at 7.30pm

Conductor: Kazuo Ohashi. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY at 7.30pm

Conductor: Kazuo Ohashi. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY at 7.30pm

Conductor: Kazuo Ohashi. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY at 7.30pm

Conductor: Kazuo Ohashi. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Music Director: Giuseppe Sinopoli. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

ANDREW DAVIS

Friday 6 February at 7.30pm. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

KEN NODA

Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

BEETHOVEN

Overture, King Stephen. Piano Concerto No. 1. Symphony No. 7.

MARGARET MARSHALL

Maldwyn Davies. Benjamin Luxon. Philharmonia Chorus.

HAYDN: THE CREATION

Tuesday 10 February at 7.30pm.

LYNN HARRELL

Lynne Dawson. Henry Herford. Dvorak's Slavonic Dances Op. 46 Nos. 1, 2 & 3.

Dvorak's Cello Concerto

Nettleson. Symphony No. 3. (Sinfonia Espansiva).

Sponsored by CHANEL

VICTOR ROCHAUSSER presents at the Royal Festival Hall

TONIGHT at 7.30

POPULAR CLASSICS

London Symphony Orchestra. Conducted by Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

CLIVE PHILLIPS

Conductor: Clive Phillips. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

WAGNER WILLIAMS

Conductor: Wagner Williams. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY at 7.30pm

Conductor: Wagner Williams. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY at 7.30pm

Conductor: Wagner Williams. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY at 7.30pm

Conductor: Wagner Williams. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

SUNDAY 29 FEBRUARY at 7.30pm

Conductor: Wagner Williams. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

SUNDAY 6 MARCH at 7.30pm

Conductor: Wagner Williams. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

BARBICAN HALL

Barbican Centre, Silk St. EC2Y 8DS. Telephone Bookings 10am-8pm 7 days a week.

POPULAR CLASSICS

London Symphony Orchestra. Conducted by Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

SATURDAY NEXT 7 FEBRUARY at 8pm

Conductor: Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY at 7.45pm

Conductor: Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY at 7.45pm

Conductor: Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY at 7.45pm

Conductor: Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY at 7.45pm

Conductor: Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

POPULAR CLASSICS

London Symphony Orchestra. Conducted by Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY at 7.30pm

Conductor: Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

LOVE CLASSICS

London Symphony Orchestra. Conducted by Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY at 7.30pm

Conductor: Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

GERSHWIN EVENING

Conductor: Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

COMEDY OF THE YEAR

Conductor: Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

STEPPING OUT

Conductor: Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

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RAYMOND GUBBAY presents

at the BARBICAN

FRIDAY NEXT 6 FEBRUARY at 7.45pm

Conductor: LOUIS FREMAUX. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

SATURDAY NEXT 7 FEBRUARY at 8pm

Conductor: Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY at 7.45pm

Conductor: Sir Colin Davis. Program: Beethoven's 5th, 7th, and 9th Symphonies.

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BRITISH ART in the

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SPORTING DIARY
Frances Edmonds in Australia

Titfer for tat

With the scene now set for the final round of the America's Cup in Fremantle, Bob Hawke, has matched Ronald Reagan's promise of a cowboy hat if the United States wins. Hawke says that if Australia's Kookaburra III wins, he will hand over a Crocodile Dundee style Akubra hat. Wags are suggesting that the defeated Australia IV syndicate manager — the Perth multi-millionaire Alan Bond, who wrestled the "aud mug" after 132 years of American dominance at Newport in 1983 — has added a codicil to the Australia-American wager. If Kookaburra III allows the American skipper, Dennis Conner, and the crew of Stars and Stripes to retrieve the cup after all Bond's Herculean efforts, then the Akubra will be delivered attached to the head of Kookaburra skipper Iain Murray.

Fighting talk

The Kiwis' unusual, if not unexpected, decision to join forces with the Australians rather than with their American co-challengers has been greeted enthusiastically by the Kookaburra syndicate director, Ken Court. Court may know plenty about 12 metre yacht racing but his sense of history is a trifle off-course. Hearing of the Kiwis' decision he enthusiastically exclaimed that "when Anzacs get together and put up a fight they usually win". Surely he must have heard of Gallipoli.

Slips

Two Australians are wondering if they had something to do with the unexpected resignation of Jack Bailey, the MCC secretary, on his return from watching the cricket in Australia. At a dinner party in Sydney a couple of weeks ago, two of Bailey's fellow guests were Jane Adams, who deals with syndication rights for News Corporation (Australia), and investment banker Mark Hopkinson. Ingeniously, Jane asked him if his job was full-time or whether it merely involved selling a few "egg and bacon" pies. Then Hopkinson naively enquired exactly what an MCC secretary did all day, apart from collecting the gate money at Lord's. The two are now genuinely concerned that their questions may have precipitated Bailey's departure.

Word play

Poster-borne graffiti is the art form most commonly on display in Australian sporting stadiums. Apart from such banal exhortations as "good shot" and "wizd", there is no shortage of genuine humour. On the centrecourt at the Australian Open in Koooyong, Melbourne, during the Australian Pat Cash's defeat of the Czechoslovak, Ivan Lendl, a young woman hoisted aloft a poster reading: "Cash Always Beats A Cheque". At the Gabba cricket ground in Brisbane recently a gaudy poster insisted: "Mike Gatting - King Jenny Craig Immediately". Jenny Craig runs a string of successful weight loss centres.

Gut reaction

England's cricketers do not have the monopoly on excess adipose tissue. While Dirk Wellham, the New South Wales batsman, threw himself bodily towards the wicket in an all-out attempt to avoid a run-out during England's breathtaking one-day victory over the Australians at the Sydney cricket ground last week, an ABC commentator was more than apt. "Wellham", he remarked, "skidding on his belly makes it comfortable".

Sluggish

The seventh annual Australasian Worm Championships was celebrated here last week. The race is held on a metre-square board, marked with inner and outer circles. Four competitors at a time are placed inside the inner circle. When the flag drops the first worm to slide across the outer line is the winner. Favourite for the biggest event in the racing calendar of the Victorian town of Trentham was Enders Pride III, who took a week to cover two furlongs.



Alastair Milne's departure from the BBC is a personal tragedy, the more so because he had devoted his working life to broadcasting and the BBC. But the rift between BBC governors and management has been evident for more than two years. The Corporation cannot function effectively while its two ruling bodies are at loggerheads. This internal strife, far more than external political pressures, seems to me the most likely cause of Thursday's drama.

The governors are part time. In the eyes of many professional broadcasters and administrators they are amateurs. Sometimes they intervene when they ought not to; sometimes they fail to intervene when they should. Frictions with the full-time professionals are almost inevitable, but the BBC's governors are an essential part of the "arm's length" relationship between the broadcasters and the politicians and their view has to be respected.

Previous directors-general have had their troubles — among them Sir Hugh Greene, the most distinguished since the war. Most however, have shown the qualities of diplomacy and persuasion to carry the governors with them. Alastair Milne, sadly, was too abrasive and too intolerant towards differing views. Sir Ian Trethowan before him may have been too emollient, but he guided the BBC through awkward debates with Labour and Conservative ministers — and Labour governments have occasionally been as troublesome as any.

The preservation of the arm's

After Milne, the need for harmony

by Alastair Hetherington

length relationship is crucial to the independence of British Broadcasting. Mrs Thatcher's government has infringed the conventions, both over the *Real Lives* programme and through Norman Tebbit's onslaught over news coverage of the American raids on Libya. It has been urged onwards by sustained sniping from the Conservative back benches. Fortunately for the BBC, Tebbit's evidence was absurdly inadequate and readily rebutted. But the effects of Conservative criticism has been damaging, especially abroad.

Friendly observers in Europe, as I have recently experienced, are no longer convinced that the BBC is truly impartial. They suspect that it is heading under government pressure. They are mistaken, in my view, but they are not easily convinced. The External Services — a vital asset to Britain, in commercial terms no less than cultural — have been tarnished by the Conservative attack.

giving coherence to the BBC's independence, in harmony with the new director general.

Together they face formidable problems. In finance the indexed licence fee will leave BBC revenues far behind the ITV companies. In radio, though the privatization of Radios 1 and 2 may be rejected, the frequencies of one or other may go to Independent National Radio. For the most distant future, the BBC must prepare for subscription television if the Home Office research proves it feasible. So far the BBC has dragged its feet. And over the Home Secretary's demand that the smaller independent producers should have a share in BBC and ITV activities, again there has been a miserable dragging of BBC feet.

Fortunately the governors have at least three excellent candidates for Director-General within the BBC and at least another three outside. Not everyone would want to take on the job, but the talent is there — and so is commitment to withstand political pressure.

For Alastair Milne, too, all is not lost. Let him become a member of the Independent Programme Producers Association. He has a brilliant record in satirical light entertainment. Channel 4 is short of that. He might even sell some programmes to the BBC.

The author, research professor in media studies at Stirling University, was formerly Controller, BBC Scotland.

Peter Brimelow
Scholarship and dollarship

New York
Although journalists are usually poor correspondents, they always consume their mail avidly. Hostile letters disturb them much more than the senders, even further incensed by the lack of a reply, probably realize. "They confirm my darkest fears about myself," a dejected colleague once said.

No doubt because of some personal perversity, however, I have always found hostile mail ghoulishly satisfying. At the moment I am knee-deep in it, having written a piece for *Forbes* magazine questioning the amount spent in the US on education — the nearest thing in this country to an established religion.

My argument is quite simple, and applies equally to Britain. From an economic point of view, education is an item of goods like any other — baked beans or petrol, for instance. But unlike other goods, the amount spent on education is determined politically, which means in effect by the power of the professional educators' lobby, with its satellite constituencies of parents, politicians and media types.

In America, this has produced a situation in which the educators are constantly demanding more money — when in fact, after adjustment for inflation, the amount spent per primary and secondary school pupil has quadrupled since 1950. This would constitute a catastrophic productivity collapse even if the educational standard achieved by these pupils had remained the same.

But, on all available evidence, overall achievement has deteriorated sharply. Not that there is very much evidence available. Nobody is counting. It seems to be taken for granted that education and spending on education are good, and more is better. To many of my correspondents, any discussion of education in terms of input and output was simply heresy. They were particularly offended by my innocent observation that the US spends about the same proportion of its gross national product on education as on defence.

Readers generally write only when angry. And professional educators in particular, who squeal like stuck pigs when criticized, worse than any other group in my experience, except the political activists who have captured the bureaucracies of the major churches. So I was surprised to find that about half my huge mail was favourable. One clearly, the profound, profound, discomfited with levels of platitudes and government spending. Underlay President Reagan's election has not gone away.

Many of my critics offered excuses that were really just amplifications of the problem. Despite the American education system's unpleasant friends, it's worth emphasizing to a British audience that it has real virtues. Its great glory is its flexibility, diversity and energy. But much the same could be said of American society in general. It may be that education systems have less influence than we assume, that they are blameworthy — and praised — for far too much. Which is no reason for them to waste money.

The author is a senior editor of *Forbes* magazine.

Fleur de Villiers on the significance of Dr Worrall's resignation

Botha's crumbling alliance

Johannesburg
President Botha's opening salvo in the South African general election campaign, fired in Parliament in Cape Town yesterday, was all but drowned out by an announcement by his ambassador to London.

Dr Denis Worrall, South Africa's abject defender abroad, confirmed that he was resigning to return to public life in South Africa. With proper reticence he has refused, until he leaves London, to elaborate on his statement that he sees a role for "bridge builders" in South Africa, but that has not stopped intense speculation in South Africa that he intends to campaign against the party he has served since 1974: to stand, not as a member of the liberal opposition Progressive Federal Party but as an independent candidate and a focus for the growing disenchantment of the Nationalist elite with President Botha's policies.

It is difficult to overestimate the shock in Pretoria should the speculation prove correct. Dr Worrall, although English speaking, enjoys a remarkable degree of popularity among South Africans of all shades of opinion, and particularly among Afrikaners who have been impressed by his articulate, sophisticated defence of their country and by his anti-sanctions arguments. These have carried far more weight in the world at large than the "up and at 'em" style of his Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pik Botha.

Worrall's performances on British television, eagerly relayed by the state-controlled South African Broadcasting Corporation, have given him star status in homes across the country and ensure that he will be a formidable candidate if he decides to stand.

If he does indeed defect from the government ranks it will mean that President Botha is at last losing the constituency which provided the bedrock of support for his reform policies — the alliance of "verligte" (enlightened) Afrikaner nationalists and English-speaking voters. In the last year, as, harried by hostile world opinion, he has retreated into his shell, slammed the brakes on reform and suspended many civil liberties, Botha has treated that constituency with a contempt it does not deserve.

He has ignored rumblings from the Afrikaners business world about his government's gross mismanagement of the embattled economy, he has tangled with Afrikaner academics on the suspension of civil liberties, he has threatened Afrikaner students who want to meet the ANC and he



Botha: first round to the opposition

has increasingly alienated an Afrikaner elite which expected more of reform than a siege society trapped in a seemingly endless state of emergency.

Indeed, Botha's spokesmen have not bothered to disguise their belief that the support of the English-speaking voters and of Afrikanerdom of the left (all terms in South Africa being relative) could be taken for granted in the coming election as the government devoted its time and energies to dispatching the threat from the extreme right.

That assumption was dented last week when Wynand Malan, Nationalist MP for Randburg, offended by President Botha's brutal treatment of coloured leader and cabinet colleague Allan Hendrickse — who had incurred his wrath by swimming from a whites-only beach — resigned from the party and announced his intention of standing as an independent. It was a brave, if lonely, stand, but it nevertheless ignited a hope among disenchanted Afrikaners (whose tribal fidelity is such that they cannot quite bring themselves to vote for the English-dominated Progressive Federal Party) that their disaffection could yet find a more adequate expression than an abstention vote or a spoils paper.

If Malan can do it, so the argument goes, why not six or seven independent heavyweight candidates drawn from the ranks of disenchanted Nationalists? At worst they could send a message of protest to Botha; at best they would be returned to Parliament

dians into Parliament.

The task led eventually to a head-on clash with the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Chris Heunis, and some of Worrall's key recommendations were spurned. A surprise posting as ambassador to Australia was widely, if incorrectly, interpreted at the time as a sign that this ambitious and able man had proved too awkward a bed-fellow for some of his Nationalist colleagues.

But his performance in Australia was noted, and appreciated, at home and his appointment to London was little short of inspired. Whitehall could afford to ignore most of his Afrikaner predecessors as relics of an alien culture. In Worrall Pretoria had at last found a man who could address British concerns in terms of British values and do it with a skill and a sophistication rare among South African envoys.

But if his performance won him plaudits in both London and among the broad South African public, there is little doubt that his popularity did not serve his ambitions well among suspicious Nationalist colleagues. Neither, probably, did his industry in trying to fashion a subtle response to the Eminent Persons Group initiative early last year or his swift rebuttal of the government's initial negative response to the proposals for multi-racial government in Natal.

His annoyance over the South African raids on three Commonwealth countries which effectively torpedoed the EPF mission and his distaste for the suppression of press freedom was not overly disguised. A widely expected elevation to the cabinet in last year's reshuffle did not materialize as Botha ignored not only Worrall but other outspoken reformists.

So this man who describes himself as a liberal with a small "l" but who insists that no solution to South Africa's problem is possible if Afrikaner fears are ignored again seeks a role for himself in which he can try to marry those two convictions.

Whether or not he decides to go into active politics against the government, his resignation means that the first blood in the election campaign has gone not as expected, to President Botha or even to his enemies on the extreme right but to the disenchanted Nationalists of the left. For Botha will find it almost impossible to replace his present ambassador to London with anyone who can argue South Africa's case half as effectively.

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If it even makes it to the runway it's gotta be noos...

the other. "Well, I was expecting a jet, not something for doing stunt flying. I looked here from Chicago on a major carrier. No one told me that halfway I'd be switching to a flying circus. Let me tell you about it," he said, and without pausing for consent, he told me about it.

There had been the time when a dog, which had been bundled into the baggage compartment, got scared by the noise of the engine and burst out of its confinement at 1,000 feet and plunged earthwards. "Let me tell you, that is true. It happened in Alaska a couple of years ago. It was in the noospaper."

Then there was the passenger who, just before arrival in his home town, developed the suspicion that the pilot had mistaken the street lights for the runway. "He was gonna land on the highway until this passenger tapped him on the shoulder and put him right. It was in the noospaper."

There was the co-pilot who went to check the back door at 4,000 feet only to see it disappear before his eyes. "Some guy grabbed his

"Omigod, I can see the wings wobbling. I think they're gonna break off," he announced as the plane banked north after take-off.

He kept up his commentary of doom for the entire 35 minutes of the flight. I looked at the other six passengers. Fortunately there was no gorgeous blonde, brazen red-head or timid clergyman — none of that cross-section of humanity which was a pre-requisite of all the air crashes I had ever seen at the cinema. The others were just grey businessmen, one looking somewhat greayer as the little aircraft bounced around on Eric's weather.

Few travellers would deny that being in a light aircraft feels more like flying than being in a 737 does. On a good day their low altitude means there are much more impressive views to be enjoyed, especially flying in Arizona and New Mexico as I did the week after. On a bad day there is a much greater sensation of being at the whim of the winds, an impression which is hardly assuaged by those airlines which ask you your weight before boarding so that the fatties can be spread around strategically.

Eric's suffering, when it was all over, was not entirely without purpose. At least his faith in journalism had been vindicated. Sometimes you just have to believe what you read in the noospaper.

Paul Valley

Philip Howard
Buttering up Lady Luck

Every day in every way things get worse and worse. Or so the old borer grumble. But at least in one matter there is an improvement. We are less superstitious than we used to be, aren't we? We no longer tremble at thunder, or make obscene apotropaic gestures to ward off the evil eye. There is still as much folly and sin around as drove Juvenal to verse; but at least there are fewer fortune-tellers, augurs, entrail-interpreters, prophets, haruspices, weather forecasters, public opinion pollsters, and other such charlatans.

We are rational grown-ups who no longer make detours to avoid walking under ladders, or blench to sit down thirteen at table. The feeble-minded may read their horoscopes in the feather-headed blats, but they say they don't really believe the rubbish, and look at it only for a laugh.

Of course, some superstitions are not irrational, but plain common sense. It is indeed very unlucky to put the sugar in before the milk when pouring a cup of tea. It has a terrible effect on your life. My Aunt Cassandra once put the sugar in first, and over the next fifty years all her teeth fell out. And even the most hard-headed rationalists have feet of clay with toes crossed about superstition. Niels Bohr, the Danish nuclear physicist who was one of the fathers of the bomb, and a serious man of science, kept a horseshoe hanging in his country cottage. A friend teased him: "Can it be that you, of all people, believe it will bring you luck?" "Of course not," replied Bohr, "but I understand it brings you luck whether you believe or not."

Some beliefs that look superstitious at first are really hard facts that can be demonstrated empirically. One of these is the Aggravating Transport Law of Inverse Urgency. This states that public transport arrives promptly only when it doesn't matter, but is always late when you really need it. When you have all the time in the world, the Circle Line train pulls up as you step on to the platform, and the 27 bus arrives at the stop simultaneously with you, you have the right change, the driver smiles, the traffic lights are all green, and you get to work an hour before anybody else. Conversely, when you have an important conference with the Big Boss, and are running a bit late anyway, the bus accelerates away just as you get to the stop, and no other comes for half an hour, when three arrive



Chris Worrall

its final gloss, if it can't go wrong, it might. There are numerous variations of the Law, which is said to have been invented by George Nichols in 1949. Nichols was then a project manager working in California for the American firm Northrop, and developed the axiom from a remark made by a colleague, Captain E. Murphy, of the Wright Field-Aircraft Laboratory. The earliest quotations appear to support this aeronautical explanation: *Aviation Mechanics Bulletin* May-June 1955: "If an aircraft part can be installed incorrectly, someone will install it that way."

Murphy's law is merely a scientific formulation of a much earlier universal law about human affairs. The Buttered Side Principle, first set down by James Payn — echoing Tom Hood's parody 67 years earlier — in 1884:

I never had a piece of toast particularly long and wide. But fell upon the sandy floor And always on the buttered side.

The underlying truth of the principle goes back much further; indeed, it has been built into the human condition since Adam and Eve. With Murphy's Law and the Buttered Side Principle ruling the world, there is no room for superstition.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

In deciding to resign his post as Ambassador to the Court of St James and to return to a political career in South Africa, Mr Denis Worrall has achieved a remarkable surprise. It has even distracted attention from President Botha's announcement that May 6 will be the date of South Africa's election upon which, indeed, it may yet exercise some influence. But does the Ambassador's announcement represent the failure of his mission?

Mr Worrall had an unenviable and impossible task in London. To attempt to persuade the British public of the virtues of South African policy would be a difficult task at any time. It has proved an almost humiliating one in a year in which the Botha government has all but abandoned the reform programme, imposed two states of emergency and press censorship of unusual severity, rejected the proposals of the Natal "indaba" for the establishment of a multi-party democracy in Natal, and unsuccessfully fought the imposition of economic sanctions.

That Mr Worrall should be called upon to defend this record was a harsh irony. He was, as Fleur de Villiers points out on the opposite page, one of the architects of the Botha government's reform programme — though one who urged more rapid and thorough change than the government or the electorate was willing to accept. That programme, however, always had

an important international dimension. It offered no overnight revolution but a gradualist rolling progress in which each reform was designed in part to gain a period of grace for South Africa during which the next reform might be introduced. Indeed, Western support (or at least tolerance) was essential if reformist policies and Ministers were to survive the black-unrest and conservative white backlash which reform was expected to provoke.

A persuasive advocate, a brilliant debater, a knowledgeable student of international affairs, Mr Worrall was ideally suited to "sell" the reform programme to British and international opinion. By the time he arrived in London, however, the political appetite throughout the West was for a much more rapid transition to black majority rule than Pretoria could conceivably grant. Anything short of that was dismissed as "cosmetic" or trivial, and the campaign for economic sanctions made great advances. With all his brilliance, Mr Worrall could do little to deflect this tide — even on the one issue, economic sanctions, on which he personally sympathised with his government's position.

That altered the political calculations in Pretoria which, first, slowed down the reform programme, then embarked on harsh repression of black unrest in the townships, conducted military raids on suspected ANC guerrilla bases in neighbouring countries and —

in what was apparently the last straw for the London Ambassador — rejected the Natal Indaba proposals out of hand. His position increasingly untenable, Mr Worrall has returned home to an interesting political future.

Until now, as an English-speaking Nationalist, he has symbolised the theory that liberal English-speakers might join with *verligte* Afrikaners in a reform-minded Nationalist Party to push through fundamental political change over the opposition of conservatives in both communities. That alliance has now sundered — with President Botha and his supporters planning to fight an election on a programme of defying the world, and the reformists either retreating into political inactivity or looking at third-party options.

Mr Worrall is thought to be considering running as an independent candidate in the Cape. South Africa's next Parliament is almost certain to have a Nationalist majority, but since a number of parties are running to the left and right of Mr Botha, its exact composition cannot be forecast. Mr Worrall might well emerge to lead a new coalition of reformist Nationalists, disaffected by the government's present immobilism, and members of the Progressive Federal Party. If so, he will have to solve the problem of how to win Western support for reforms which may be faster than Mr Botha's but which will still not offer instant democracy.

A TESTING FUTURE

The news that the Government is considering introducing national tests to be taken by all children in basic subjects at various stages of their primary and secondary schooling is welcome. The step follows logically on earlier announcements by the Education Secretary, Mr Kenneth Baker, about his plans to introduce a national core curriculum, accompanied by attainment targets, or benchmarks. After all, what is the point of setting national standards if there is no way of measuring whether or not they are being achieved?

It has to be said, however, that all that is new about the idea is its national dimension for it was pioneered three years ago by the London borough of Croydon. The authority has imposed a core curriculum on all its schools and it tests children's numeracy and literacy at the ages of 7, 9 and 11. A more general aptitude test is administered at 14. The advantages are manifold and obvious: Croydon can tell at a glance how schools with comparable intakes are performing; parents know in considerable detail what their children are expected to learn and whether they are doing so; and (not least) teachers are left in no doubt about what is expected of them.

In other words, Croydon is doing what every efficient organisation must. It sets itself objectives and then measures whether or not they are being achieved. It is thus in a position to judge the quality of the service it is providing and what should be done to improve it.

Opposition to the idea, which quickly evaporated in Croydon, usually stems from fears that a dull and narrow uniformity will be imposed on schools and that teachers' enterprise and initiative will

be stifled. The reality is that Croydon is now able to insist on the uniform delivery of a broad and challenging curriculum whether the teachers are gifted or not, and providing the goods are delivered, the authority gives positive encouragement to a diversity of teaching styles and methods. Indeed, a core curriculum and standardized tests provide exactly the framework within which experimentation can safely flourish.

So if it works in Croydon, why not in Britain? The fact is that ever since the 1944 Education Act unaccountably neglected to say anything about what children should be taught, apart from religious education, a kind of anarchy has bloomed in our schools resulting not only in unparalleled inequalities (which bear hardest on the less able) but also in a steady decline in standards by comparison with what our competitors are achieving. It has to stop.

The deafening silence from the ranks of the Labour Party and the Alliance suggests that there is at least wide political agreement on the need for a core curriculum. Even the Inner London Education Authority is planning to impose one. Nonetheless, the educational establishment is already beginning to gag, and its outrage will grow with the prospect of national tests. Some of its objections need to be taken seriously, in particular the danger of spreading despondency and discouragement among children who may be labelled failures time and again.

There are two answers to that. The first is that once realistic standards are set and insisted upon, fewer children will fail. The second is that parents must be educated to understand what they can realistically expect of their

children and reassured — as not enough are now — that everything possible is being done to ensure that they achieve it. Standardised tests not only show how a child is performing in relation to his or her peers, which every parent wants to know, they also reveal how pupils are progressing in relation to their own abilities, which every parent has a right to know.

Teachers tend to claim that it all means a return to the faded and hated Victorian system of "payment by results" under which for 30 years elementary schools were penalised by the withdrawal of government grant if too many of their pupils failed tests in the three Rs. Of course, some teachers have reason to fear being found out. Croydon's tests can identify which classes in which subjects are producing unexpectedly poor results, at which point the remedy is either an urgent dose of in-service training or something more drastic. And what possible objection can there be to that, unless we really have come to believe that schools are run principally for the benefit of those who teach in them?

But the most influential objection to the scheme will come from local education authorities, of all political colours, who fear a real erosion of their powers. But they are mistaken. In the same way as schools and teachers in Croydon are encouraged to develop their own ways of arriving at a common goal so, once we have a national curriculum and standardised tests to underpin it, local authorities will be free to devise the best ways of delivering a high quality education to the greatest possible number of pupils. And that, surely, must be the national objective.

FOURTH LEADER

The other day, when the Swiss Air Force was on manoeuvres, there was a multiple aerial accident; two jets collided, and a helicopter was brought down in the ensuing melee. By good fortune, no member of the crew of any of the three aircraft was hurt. But just as we were rejoicing at their providential escape from tragedy, we noticed another item in the story. In the confusion, "a drugged horse fell 300 feet to its death".

Here we must insist on an urgent disclaimer. We do not make the news, we merely report it. What is more, this story came from Reuters, whose representatives are models of sobriety, particularly in Switzerland. We have all got to face the fact that a visit to that country now entails, in addition to the familiar dangers — avalanches and mudslides — the possibility that at any moment a drugged horse may fall on us from a great height.

Very well, you say, a stout umbrella (or parasol in the summer) should keep the worst off. We wouldn't bank on it; a horse falling from 300 feet up would be accelerating at a rate of 32 feet per second squared, and (if we have applied the famous formula correctly) would therefore attain an impact velocity of approximately 196 mph.

Some thump. But we are more interested in the cause than the effect. It is very unlikely indeed that the Swiss are about to take over the world; apart from anything else, their strict rules on neutrality would preclude it. But if not, how are we to explain why they have now started filling their aeroplanes with horses and pelting the passers-by with them?

Horses for courses. We scout the theory that the beast was a stowaway. We reject the

thought that the Swiss are checking up on Newton. We rule out the idea that, tired of hearing people say it's raining cats and dogs, they are trying to freshen the metaphor. No one would try to popularise aerial polo. And we simply do not believe that the whole thing was an advertisement for Pegasus Holidays.

Give up? You'll kick yourselves when you know. It was all a stunt organised by the Swiss chapter of the Wordsworth Society. Peter Bell, with 227 stanzas, is one of their hero's longest poems; we have to add that it is also one of his worst. But it begins "There's something in a flying horse". Repeatedly frustrated by their unsuccessful attempts to tease any coherent meaning out of the work, the Society determined to see if there was anything in a flying horse, and the plan went wrong. A pity, they were, after all, only trying to make William tell.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Safe way ahead in nuclear energy

From the Chairman of Rolls-Royce plc

Sir, Energy is an essential requirement of modern society and traditional fossil fuel sources are limited to a few decades. The renewable sources have proved difficult, expensive and environmentally intrusive and offer no solution to the world's energy problems when fossil fuel supplies become scarce and expensive.

Nuclear fusion is still tantalisingly promising, but offers no substantial substitution possibility for 100 years or more. In the circumstances we have to fall back upon nuclear fission. The record of the nuclear industry over the past 30 years has been a good one, and where accidents have occurred they have resulted from a tendency of man to overrate his ability to design and operate acceptably safe systems.

Since nuclear fission is a potentially hazardous process safety assumes paramount importance and it behoves us to look not only for the most carefully engineered safety devices, but also for a system where the physical laws demand the least possible ingenuity on the part of designers and operators.

We are fortunate in this country in having developed, at great cost and effort, gas-cooled reactor systems whose physical processes are essentially more forgiving than those of water reactors. We therefore have a choice open to no other nation in the world and it would be a tragedy if, as proposed by the Central Electricity Generating Board, we abandoned this technology for the pressurised water reactor.

The PWR was designed for use in nuclear submarines, where the power/weight ratio is of maximum importance and takes priority over other factors. Such consideration should not dominate a civil nuclear power programme and it is an unhappy accident that, for economic reasons, the PWR has been developed for civil use.

For this reason, while continuing to be a strong supporter of nuclear power in the UK energy system, I fervently hope that Government and the CEBG will reconsider their stance of the past

few years and continue the AGR system rather than opting for the PWR.

If they do not, I believe that their responsibility will be very great, and it is probable that posterity will judge them harshly. Yours faithfully, FRANCIS TOMBS, Chairman, Rolls-Royce plc, 65 Buckingham Gate, SW1, January 28.

From Mr M. H. Glover
Sir, In the balanced appraisal by Nigel Evans (feature, January 27) about the Layfield report on the Sizewell inquiry there is no reference to the possibility, or by now perhaps probability, of nuclear fusion replacing nuclear fission during the next 50 years as a means of generating electricity without using fossil fuels.

Given the fact that fusion energy will be "clean" and free of the hazards posed by containing radioactive waste, surely responsibility to future generations should cause us to pause before proliferating additional fission reactors, more especially having regard to the transformation of the coal industry into a productive and high-technology enterprise.

Yours truly, MYLES GLOVER, Buckhall Farm, Bull Lane, Bethersden, Nr Ashford, Kent.

From Mr Andrew Warren
Sir, During his distinguished career Sir Frank Layfield has undertaken three major public inquiries for the Government. The two previous inquiries dealt with the reform of local government finance and with the Greater London Development Plan ringways scheme.

On both previous occasions Sir Frank's recommendations have been accepted by the government of the day, which then proceeded not to implement them.

Surely this Government will not wish to break with precedent over Sizewell? Yours faithfully, ANDREW WARREN, Kingston, Mill Lane, Felsted, Essex.

Spy in the sky

From Dr Jeremy Leggett

Sir, The Zircos satellite scheme should not be criticised on strategic grounds. It will be our first home-grown surveillance facility capable of monitoring the interior of the Soviet Union from space. As such, it will reduce our hitherto complete reliance on Pentagon-derived intelligence.

Many proponents of arms-control have long argued that we rely too heavily on our allies for information where threat-assessment and treaty-compliance evaluation are concerned and all the indications are that this is the kind of role the Zircos satellite will play.

For currently topical issues such as the crop of allegations over Soviet infringements of the Salt 2 treaty, we in Britain have no way of judging for ourselves. Most of the issues involve classified data from American photo-reconnaissance satellites.

Independent schools

From the Headmaster of Reed's School, Cobham

Sir, I write in support of the views expressed in the letter from the Headmaster of The King's School, Chester (January 20), concerning the Labour Party's plans to abolish the assisted places scheme and the charitable status of independent schools.

Although my school is not on the assisted places scheme, it does have, as do many other independent schools, a charitable foundation which gives boarding provision to children in need. We support over 100 boarders at the cost of £250,000 a year. These boys are on foundation bursaries because one parent has died or

Sadly, where there is information available on the public record, such as that pertaining to the allegations over Soviet violation of the threshold test ban treaty, the Pentagon record of accuracy does not bear too close inspection.

The new British signals intelligence satellite will give us a much needed degree of independence in threat-assessment. It will be able to monitor radio and telephone communications in a way the Soviets will not be able to predict. As such, it will add another disincentive for hawkish Kremlin strategists who might be tempted to contemplate clandestine activities under future arms-control treaties. If, that is, there are to be any.

Sincerely, J. K. LEGGETT, National Co-ordinator, Verification Technology Information Centre, 33 Southampton Street, WC2.

their parents are divorced and they need, as does their remaining parent, the financial and pastoral support provided by boarding education. Social background is irrelevant.

Despite a considerable decline in such provision in the maintained sector, very few local education authorities are now prepared to support this work in independent schools. The abolition of our charitable status would, undoubtedly, either cost the State a considerable amount of money or deprive children in need of support.

Yours faithfully, D. E. PRINCE, Headmaster, Reed's School, Cobham, Surrey, January 27.

Opera finances

From the Chairman of the Royal Opera House

Sir, A very misleading picture of the Royal Opera House's finances has been conveyed in the Press in recent weeks, and I would like to put the record straight:

1. The Royal Opera House does not face a £2m deficit for the current year, on the contrary, we are likely to break even, an achievement of which we are proud.

2. We do not face debts, mounting or otherwise.

3. We do not intend project a sizeable deficit for the coming financial year, 1987/88: this is in line, proportionately, with deficits

faced by most performing arts organisations; and we are working on it.

4. At the request of the Arts Council, we are preparing a three-year rolling plan, which will certainly include some sacrifices. I believe that no decision to give us only a "standstill grant" for 1987/88 has been made.

The problems we are grappling with are not peculiar to the Royal Opera House. They are faced by arts organisations, large and small, up and down the country. The reasons are well understood.

Yours faithfully, CLAUDE MOSER, Chairman, Royal Opera House, As from: New Court, St Swinith's Lane, EC4.

Multiplying magpies

From the Reverend W. E. Quinney

Sir, Mr Bromley (January 26) is correct. There is a plague of magpies and carrion crows throughout England. Furthermore, he must be correct in attributing, at least, part of the decline of small songbirds etc in his garden to these destructive pests.

However, he may find some consolation knowing that on the gibbet in my garden there hang the remains of 23 female magpies and 21 female carrion crows, all of which were clapped off their nests whilst incubating eggs and shot during April and May last year.

Surprisingly my friends and myself are frequently arraigned for undertaking this valuable and arduous task in the interests of conservation.

I write as a covenanting mem-

ber of the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), also the Leicestershire Wildlife Trust and I hope, as a Christian!

Yours sincerely, WILLIAM QUINNEY, Nailstone Rectory, Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

From Mrs M. Wild
Sir, Mr Toby Bromley wonders if other readers have observed an increase in numbers of the *corvidae*, accompanied by the disappearance of other small birds.

During the past 18 months this phenomenon has been noted in this locality. Gone are the committee meetings of sparrows and no longer do the other small birds grace the garden in the numbers they once did.

The *modus operandi* of the magpies is awesome. They have

Boat Race crew in hot water

From Professor Alastair Cameron

Sir, I am sure many of us who rowed in the Boat Race will think it is time to review the qualifications required for a seat in the boat. For several years now it has (sadly) been possible to predict its outcome merely by looking at the age of the crews and the number of internationals recruited as mercenaries.

Any change in the rules is bound to cause unfairness somewhere, but as a start may I suggest only those are eligible who are (i) undertaking full three-year courses, or (ii) doing a one year's study required to complete an undergraduate course, e.g. teacher training.

As a relief from these difficult matters may I commend the University Lightweighters who, for the last 13 years, have raced truly undergraduate crews against each other. I make no apology for being entirely biased in hoping that many people will come and watch the race at Henley on March 22 at 3.30, when Cambridge, which has won the last nine, aims at making it 10.

Yours faithfully, ALASTAIR CAMERON (Senior Treasurer, Cambridge University Lightweight Rowing Club), 39 Maids Causeway, Cambridge.

From the Rev Charles A. Roach
Sir, I have maintained for years that the Boat Race would be more genuine — and solve Oxford's present problems — if it were limited to undergraduates and thereby exclude those who go to a university to row and are in effect professionals compared with undergraduates. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, CHARLES A. ROACH, Trehoward, Green Lane West, Marazion, Cornwall, January 28.

No hedge against snow

From Bombardier Nicholas T. Moore

Sir, Both Mrs Glyn (January 21) and Mr Lang (January 24) are on the right lines as regards the prevention of snow drifting across roads. Mr Lang's idea of a hedge planted some 50 to 100 yards to the windward of the road is, as he rightly points out, unlikely to be adopted by farmers.

However, here in West Germany (a country unaffected by the Enclosure Acts) a simple, inexpensive method is used to protect the major roads, in particular the autobahns, from incursions of blown snow.

A one-metre high portable fence made up of fixed lengths of lattice construction (of wood or plastic) is set up approximately 20 or 30 metres from the road along stretches that are known to be vulnerable to drifting. At this time of the year the fields are not affected by such an operation, normally carried out by the equivalent of the local council at no cost to the farmers concerned.

Perhaps it is time council authorities in places such as Sheppey looked to such a scheme for next year, instead of spending vast sums on new snow-clearing machinery. The same principle could be applied by British Rail to stretches of railway lines that have been blocked this year.

Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS T. MOORE, Royal Artillery Gunnery Training Establishment, Dortmund, British Forces Post Office 20, January 26.

Prayer Book use

From the Reverend Stephen Trot

Sir, If Dr Homan (January 22) wishes to know whether the *Book of Common Prayer* is being used regularly in the theological colleges of the Church of England he would do well to ask one or two theological students, or some of those who have been recently ordained.

He would discover a very wide consensus of opinion that the BCP is no longer satisfactory either doctrinally or liturgically and no longer a fit means of communication for the radical simplicity of the Christian faith.

What is more, he might well find a deep degree of resentment at the notion that theological students are at college, not to be trained for ministry, but to receive indoctrination, lacking minds and opinions of their own. There would be very firm resistance to any attempt to force a return to the liturgy of the past!

Yours faithfully, STEPHEN TROT, 14 Southgate, Hesse, North Humberdale, January 22.

From Mrs Kate Springett
Sir, Shooting will not control the spread of magpies. The most humane method is to destroy their nests.

Magpies are not completely villainous. Apart from taking young or injured birds and eggs they devour numerous insects and rodents.

Yours etc, KATE E. SPRINGETT (London Residuary Body bird observer, Hampstead Heath), 29 Woodsome Road, NW5.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 31 1805

Although war news claimed the greater part of the paper's four pages early in the 19th century, space could always be found for peaceful pursuits. The second short piece reveals that recycling is not a modern expedient. Agricultural reports are still with us.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT

The sharp frosts through the chief parts of the month, have not proved ungenial to the principal operations in Agriculture; the young Wheat have, in most districts, been benefited by them, particularly those on tender, free-growing soils, where, in many parts, from the mild open weather, the wire-worm and slug had materially injured the plants. In the fens of Lincoln, and the low parts on the Essex coast, the growing of corn has been chilled by the continued rains; and their fallowed lands are left in so wet a state, that their Beans and Pease will, of necessity, be got in later this season than has been known for many years past. The last year's crop of Wheat is found so far diminished as to have occasioned a considerable rise within these few days. The young Clovers hitherto have generally stood the winter well; and the feed of Turnips and Cole-seed, notwithstanding the long severity of the weather, continue, in most Counties, sound and abundant. The Ryes have also a thrifty appearance; but the Winter Tares in the Home District do not promise so kindly. The Potatoes continue remarkably sound, and will therefore prove a more productive crop than was generally imagined. — Smithfield has taken a start the two last markets for all articles; but particularly prime Beef; choice House Lamb, and Veal are rather scarce; but Pig Pork comes up in plenty. Lean Sides of most kinds have experienced a proportionate advance. — The Hop Trade is stationary in price; but the Wool Markets are brisk; and both long and short fleeces have fetched more money since last month's Report.

In this scribbling age, when every cottage is supplied with materials rarely to be found in former times on the table of the Prelate or Abbot, it is of some consequence to acquire a little more learning on the subject of the means of extracting ink, than is to be found in the common recipe. This pigment may be drawn from linen, from paper, and from wood, by the application of almost every species of acid, but it is fit to distinguish those for ordinary use, which occasion the smallest injury to the substance to which they are applied. The muriatic acid is one of these, and it may be conveniently reduced by a quantity of water, equal to five or six times its own weight. The substance to be cleansed, may be washed in it for one or two minutes, and the operation may be repeated as often as shall appear necessary. But less risk will be occasioned by the employment of the vegetable acids, and they will be found equally efficacious. A solution of the oxalic citric, or tartarous acid, may be applied without the smallest danger upon the most exquisitely delicate production of art; but although common ink will be completely expelled, the ingredients of printer's ink, unfortunately, will defy the penetrating effect of these materials. If this difficulty were removed, and a test were discovered capable of extracting the latter, mountains of paper would be restored, which would render inactive the wheels of our rag manufactories during the present century.

One in the EYE

From Sir Peter Harrop

Sir, I have news for David Nicholson-Lord, whose article (January 29) describes European Year of the Environment as "less than a month old and already looking long in the tooth".

In fact, we have not yet cut our teeth. EYE begins on the first day of spring — March 21 — and runs for 12 months. Already there is lively interest and we are putting together a big and expanding programme. The aim is to raise awareness and stimulate action.

EYE will focus on nature conservation, pollution control and the improvement of the urban environment, including ideas for greening cities. Yours faithfully, PETER HARROP, UK Chairman, European Year of the Environment, Room 326, 20 Albert Embankment, SE1, January 29.

Literal translation

From Mr J. G. Cooper

Sir, In your television column in today's issue (January 26) you refer to John Wayne's one-line part in the *Greatest Story Ever Told*, which enabled the studio to publicise the film on billboards as being, in large letters, "with John Wayne".

You might perhaps have mentioned the alleged difficulty which the director encountered when trying to obtain the right degree of reverence from his actor. After several retakes he is said to have exclaimed, "Say it with awe, John". On the next take the famous star is reported to have exclaimed, "Aw, surely this was the son of Gaud". Yours faithfully, J. G. COOPER, 12 Dunkeld Road, Talbot Woods, Bournemouth, Dorset, January 26.

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Labour mergers warning to City

By Richard Evans
Political Correspondent

Mr Roy Hattersley, the Shadow Chancellor, yesterday outlined a tough package of measures to end the City's merger "mania" which he said threatened to inflict permanent damage on the economy.

The new Labour policy included proposals that mergers above a certain size should be notified in advance to the Office of Fair Trading which would then have 30 days to decide whether they should be referred for investigation.

Successful mergers should be subject to recall and examination, and the City's Takeover Panel should be placed on a statutory footing, Mr Hattersley said.

Speaking to the Association of Corporate Treasurers in London, he said the merger mania was inhibiting industrial success by an obsession with short-term economic performance to the detriment of long-term investment, research and development.

"Mergers are essentially an unproductive activity: transferring existing wealth rather than creating new wealth. And the City bears much of the blame for the present growth in such activity. It is only too happy to encourage it, in order to obtain large fees from mergers that often have no industrial or economic logic."

Mr Hattersley said the burden of proof had to be altered so that firms must show the industrial or consumer gains which would come from any merger. He suggested three "trip wires" for triggering the automatic need to pre-notify a merger proposal:

● Above £15 million;

● Covering more than 25 per cent of a regional or national market;

● With a foreign stake of more than 15 per cent.

Bids involving defence and strategic interests, acquisitions of national and regional newspapers, and those which were principally financial rather than commercial or industrial, should be subject to further trip wires.

Old enemies at play in a peaceful sky



By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

High over Berkshire, an RAF Spitfire flies alongside a Messerschmitt in camouflage markings.

The two historic aircraft yesterday teamed up to fly aerobically over White Waltham airfield near Maidenhead, the wartime base of the

Air Transport Auxiliary, the RAF's vital delivery unit.

The Spitfire, owned by Mr Nick Grace, a design engineer, and Mr Chris Horsley, was in active service as an RAF fighter over Southern England and Normandy. It was later broken up and lay in a museum before Mr Grace bought it in 1978 and

restored it at Goodwood airport, near Chichester, West Sussex, itself a former Spitfire base.

Today the plane, which cost less than £5,000 when it was built, is worth £400,000. The ME 109 is owned by Mr Lyndsay Walton, a Norfolk farmer. It was built in 1933

as a communications and transport aircraft and its sleek lines inspired the design of its successor, the ME 109 fighter.

The planes were brought together by Lloyd's insurance brokers Leslie and Godwin, who are sponsoring the Spitfire (Photograph: Chris Harris).

How bell tolled

Continued from page 1

compensation, or be formally dismissed with the question of compensation left much vaguer.

Earning £75,000, with a contract due to end in 1988, Mr Milne might legally be due up to £150,000: whether he was offered anything more for leaving the corporation yesterday would not say.

In any event the interview was short: it lasted one hour and 15 minutes. By the time Mr Hussey and Lord Barnett came down

to the executive suite having done the deed, the soup had been served and the plates were being cleared.

Mr Hussey tapped for attention, and with Mr Milne's empty place beside him, announced to the startled senior staff what the governors sitting with them knew only too well.

Mr Milne went to his office, told his secretary he had been fired and was going home, left the building and the BBC, and missed his lunch into the bargain.

Six lead race for top BBC 'new era' job

Continued from page 1

Burnet, aged 58, the ITN director and newscaster. He is reputed to earn £99,996 and has impeccable establishment credentials.

As speculation over Mr Milne's successor widened, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, last night entered the growing political controversy over Mr Milne's resignation after Opposition MPs stepped up their accusations of "unacceptable" gov-

ernment interference in the affairs of the BBC.

Speaking in Bristol only hours after Mr Gerald Kaufman, shadow Home Secretary, had demanded a Commons statement about Mr Milne's departure, Mr Hurd insisted the Government had nothing to do with the resignation.

But Mr Kaufman, resuming his attack, highlighted the crisis of confidence inside the BBC and about the corporation.

Swiss sparing with asylum

Berne (Reuters) - About 8,500 people sought asylum in Switzerland in 1986, 12 per cent fewer than the previous year, according to government statistics.

The figures, released by the office of Mr Peter Arbetz, the federal Government officer responsible for refugee questions, showed that the majority of asylum-seekers, 6,892, were Asian, including 4,066 Turks, 951 Iranians.

Only 820 of last year's applicants have been granted asylum.

Letter from Chengdu

Market forces on road to Lhasa

The smart, new cocktail lounge is occupied by American engineers and teachers, wandering British and European youths with huge rucksacks and tiny girl hitchhikers from Hong Kong, whose dialect is incomprehensible to the local Chinese population.

The waitresses in their neat new dresses are learning as they go along what the English names of various drinks are. English is the *lingua franca* of the backpackers, from Norway to New Zealand.

The popular Tsingtao beer, introduced to China 80 years ago by the Germans, is sold alongside canned Japanese and American brews, and of course is cheaper. There are Chinese peanuts to nibble. It is comfortable and refreshing after the dusty streets of the ancient city of Chengdu, but is it China?

Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, is on the direct route to Tibet, and this is one of the favourite destinations of foreign travellers, in China this year. Access to Lhasa has been gradually liberalized over the past few years, to the point where almost anyone can go there, whether on rattling long-distance buses, or by bicycle, sleeping at Army camps along the way.

The more adventurous can leave Tibet and enter Pakistan after traversing the Karakoram highway, though the road is rather dangerous because of landslides. But if they forget to obtain Pakistani entry visas, they will have to go back to Peking, as there is no Pakistani consulate within 2,000 miles.

The land route to Nepal from Lhasa has also been opened, though again there are maintenance problems. Nepal is the only country with a consulate in Lhasa, and the United States is the only one with a consulate in Chengdu.

The young Western travellers, with their shorts and sandals contribute little to China's foreign exchange reserves. Many of them change money on the black market which springs up in China

wherever there are foreigners but they live so frugally that they are not depriving Peking of very much.

The top hotels in Chengdu and in Sichuan's other major city, Chongqing (Chungking), are not yet as exorbitant as those in Peking. A small suite can be rented for about £25 a night. But the young travellers seek out dormitories and doss houses.

Sichuan has the reputation of being one of the finest culinary centres in China, and many foreigners appreciate its cuisine larded with hot peppers. So it was disappointing to be served some of the worst food I have ever eaten in that country in restaurants so filthy that you would not even enter them elsewhere.

The reason may be that service workers have been frightened off into the province's rapidly growing industries, as the economic reforms masterminded in Peking by the elder statesman, Mr Deng Xiaoping, and the Prime Minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang, have begun to bite.

In Chongqing, an important centre of industry and commerce, the local government has stopped paying any attention to economic plans drawn up in the capital. Factories are making what they find most profitable to make, and freely negotiating prices with wholesale concerns. This rejection of central planning is believed to be approved by Mr Deng and Mr Zhao to set an example.

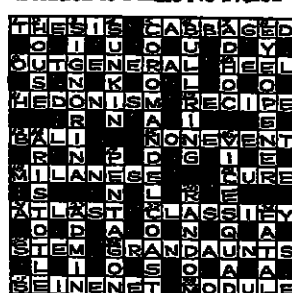
The link with Tibet is, if anything, a burden on Sichuan's economy. Almost all the trade goods, coming from Tibet, are wool and rugs, whereas Chengdu has to provide development capital for the vast and economically backward region on its borders.

Frequently ruled as an independent kingdom in the past, Sichuan is now staging a kind of mock-independence with Peking's blessing. If it succeeds, the entire economic face of China may be transformed.

David Bonavia

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Solution to Puzzle No 17,262

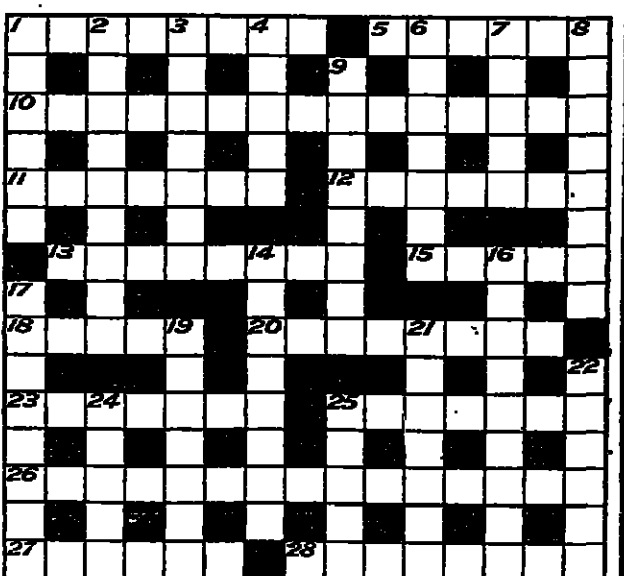


The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,268

A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: W Airtle, St Andrew's, Dundee; Mrs V Jackson, Windong, Chick Hill, Pet, Hastings; Susan, Mr A P Houston, Braemar Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport; Cheshire; M H Miller, Maltings Close, Cranfield, Bedford; Mrs H P Raiton, Kellaways Mill House, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

Name: _____
Address: _____



- ACROSS
- Bottom team after defender (8).
 - Cat's-cradle land? (6).
 - In a bad way, get NHS trial done (2,3,5,4).
 - Fire bar an old piece of brass? (7).
 - You can't get out if these are not kept open (7).
 - Suspicion of corrosion after condensation (8).
 - Butterfly - one of a pair often seen upside down (5).
 - See 'ere, I say, window does not open (5).
 - Potatoes in this style expected to include game? (6).
 - Place in Regent's Park, perhaps, for Oscar Wilde in 'The Sea Gull'? (7).
 - Brighten No 10 for so long (7).
 - Was it sworn at Versailles in a tie-break situation? (6-3,4).
 - The old sign of those not quite gentlemen (6).
 - Notably theatrical Scotch governor embraces English artist (8).
- DOWN
- Casually raise the volume? (6).
 - It comes from Mecca, this instruction book (9).
 - Water ice, a bit of a refresher between times (7).
 - Draw cheque (5).
 - Variable pitch up in Morecombe (7).
 - Surreptitious attempt announced in Irish town (5).
 - Like some wells with a set rainfall (8).
 - In matters spiritual, he is coasting freely (8).
 - Play without stress? (8).
 - Villain's violent crimes against a worker (9).
 - Thick woods always used for bow-mast support (8).
 - Redskin's whip? (7).
 - One who helps another to a seat (7).
 - Obsessed by this classic sort of novel? (6).
 - People look down on such house-calling (5).

Concise Crossword, page 15.

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, departs from Heathrow Airport for Indonesia and Thailand, 7.45pm.

New exhibitions
Edwardian Art, City Museum & Art Gallery, Hanley, Stoke on Trent.

Ken Gray's 'Endgame', City Art Gallery, Mosley St, Manchester M2, (ends March 1).
Paintings and Watercolours, Ceramics, Open Eye Gallery, 73 Cumberland St, Edinburgh.
New Movement in Furniture, City Museum & Art Gallery, Foregate St, Worcester.

The Little Light Show, City Museum & Art Gallery, Foregate St, Worcester.

Exhibitions in progress
Paintings, watercolours, prints, drawings, glass, Abbot Hall Gallery, Kendal, Cumbria.

The Private Degas, sculpture exhibition, Leeds City Art Gallery, (ends March 22).

Alexander Carss, National Museum, Dundee, Scotland, The Mount, Dundee, Scotland.

The Oak Tree, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Jordan Well, Coventry.

A Hampshire Shore, paintings of the coastline, Print Room, Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum, The Close.

Last chance to see
Portfolio Pictures and European Illustrations, Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge St, Bath, 10-5.

Treasures in Stone, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill, 10-5.

Sleeping Beauty, Grosvenor Community Centre, Sheffield.

Jonathan Mulvaney: Sculpture, Walsall Museum.

Paintings and Drawings by Maria Schiano: St David's Hall, Cardiff.

Christmas Lights, Cleveland Gallery, Middlesbrough.

India of One Thousand and One Nights, Guildford House Gallery, Guildford.

Music
Scottish National Orchestra, City Hall, Glasgow, 7.30.

Endellion Quartet, Oakdene School, Wilton Rd, Beccles, 2.45.

Bingham String Quartet, Fareham Drama Centre, 7.30.

Sevenside Symphony Orchestra, Sevenside Community Centre, 8.

Haydn: Nelson Mass, Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, 8.

David Sanger, organ; Manchester Cathedral, 7.30.

Mozart Evening, Colston Hall, Bristol, 7.30.

Tomorrow's events

Last chance to see
The Kessler Collection of paintings by Modern Masters, Leicestershire Museum and Art Gallery, New Walk, Leicester, 2-5.

Antarctica: A Continent for Science, exhibition, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, 2-5.

The Original Portsmouth Picture Show, City Museum & Art Gallery, Museum Rd, Old Portsmouth, 10.30-5.30.

The Danish Show: Paintings/Sculpture, Ferens Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Square, Hull.

Music
Bedford School Chamber Orchestra, Bedford School, 8.15.

Hallé Orchestra, Manchester Free Trade Hall, 7.30.

Bournemouth Sinfonietta, Assembly Rooms, Bath, 7.30.

Anniversaries
Today: Birth: Ben Jonson, London, 1572; Franz Schubert, Vienna, 1797; Zane Grey, writer of western stories, Zanesville, Ohio, 1872; Anna Pavlova, ballerina, London, 1882.

Deaths: Charles Edward Stuart, 'Bonnie Prince Charlie', Rome, 1788; John Galsworthy, novelist, London, 1933; Sir Charles Cochran, theatrical producer, London, 1951; A Milne, writer, Hartfield, Sussex, 1956; Samuel Goldwyn, film producer, Los Angeles, 1974.

Formal recognition of USSR by Britain, 1924.

Tomorrow: Birth: Sir Edward Coke, judge, Mileham, Norfolk, 1552; Louis Brandeis, socialist, Puget Sound, 1856; Dame Clara Butt, contralto, Southwick, Sussex, 1873; Hugo von Hofmannsthal, dramatist and poet, Vienna, 1874.

Deaths: Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, novelist, author of *Frankenstein*, London, 1851; Piet Mondrian, abstract painter, New York, 1944; Buster Keaton, silent film comedian, Woodlands Hill, California, 1966.

Formal recognition of USSR by Britain, 1924.

Roads
London and the South-east: A4016: Maybushes flyover closed both directions, diversions. A10: Hanger Lane underpass, Ealing, eastbound tunnel closed at Gunpowder, A25: Esher by-pass, gas repairs nearside lane, Esher-bound.

Middlesex: M25: Roadworks between junction 5 (Droghda) and junction 6 (Wokingham) road closed at junction 5, junction 6 road closed at junction 5.

Wiltshire: A4: Roadworks north of Newmark at Marnham Moor, lane repairs.

The North: M6: Nearside lane closures north and southbound at Blaxby Bridge junction A61/A68, A68: Bridge repairs at Blaxby, diversions.

Yorkshire: A1: Easingwold tunnel underpass, Easingwold, southbound, gas repairs nearside lane, Easingwold-bound.

Wiltshire: M25: Roadworks between junction 5 (Droghda) and junction 6 (Wokingham) road closed at junction 5, junction 6 road closed at junction 5.

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The pound

	Bank	Rate
Australia \$	2.40	2.28
Canada \$	2.15	2.15
Denmark kr	10.36	10.36
France fr	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	2.37	2.37
Italy lire	2036	2036
Japan yen	161	161
Netherlands Gld	3.76	3.76
Norway kr	11.11	11.11
Portugal escudo	200.48	200.48
Spain pes	166.64	166.64
Sweden kr	10.36	10.36
Switzerland fr	2.20	2.20
USA \$	1.53	1.53
Yugoslavia din	80	80

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 383.0

London: The FT Index closed up 14.0 at 1441.8.

Portfolios Gold

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 27).

Share	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total
1 +3	+3	+7	+3	+5			
2 +6	+3	+3	+3	+3			
3 +2	+2	+5	+4	+5			
4 +4	+4	+4	+4	+4			
5 +5	+3	+7	+5	+4			
6 +6	+3	+3	+3	+3			
7 +7	+3	+5	+5	+4			
8 +2	+1	+4	+3	+7			
9 +5	+4	+5	+7	+2			
10 +4	+5	+6	+4	+4			
11 +3	+3	+4	+4	+6			
12 +2	+4	+8	+3	+5			
13 +3	+2	+4	+3	+4			
14 +3	+3	+4	+3	+4			
15 +6	+3	+4	+3	+4			
16 +5	+4	+4	+3	+4			
17 +2	+3	+7	+5	+5			
18 +4	+2	+5	+5	+5			
19 +3	+2	+5	+4	+4			
20 +4	+2	+5	+7	+3			
21 +5	+3	+7	+3	+3			
22 +4	+3	+5	+6	+2			
23 +7	+1	+5	+6	+4			
24 +3	+3	+8	+4	+5			
25 +6	+3	+4	+5	+3			
26 +3	+3	+4	+4	+2			
27 +5	+4	+7	+3	+4			
28 +3	+5	+4	+6	+3			
29 +5	+2	+3	+6	+2			
30 +3	+4	+5	+6	+2			
31 +3	+4	+5	+6	+2			
32 +3	+4	+5	+6	+2			
33 +5	+3	+5	+6	+5			
34 +4	+3	+6	+4	+3			
35 +4	+2	+5	+5	+3			
36 +5	+2	+3	+4	+5			
37 +6	+2	+4	+5	+5			
38 +3	+2	+6	+5	+2			
39 +3	+3	+6	+4	+2			
40 +5	+4	+3	+7	+3			
41 +3	+5	+6	+6	+5			
42 +3	+3	+6	+6	+1			
43 +2	+3	+3	+7	+4			
44 +5	+1	+4	+3	+5			

WEATHER

High pressure over the country will gradually decline as milder SW winds approach from the Atlantic. There may be a few patches of freezing fog in the morning, most likely over southern Scotland, but places, will be sunny for much of the day with a slow rise in temperature after a frosty start. Western regions will cloud over later with rain in places in the evening. Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Becoming milder everywhere with some rain and patchy fog.

TODAY Sun clear: 7.41 am. Sun sets: 4.47 pm.

Moon rises: 9.00 am. Moon sets: 7.27 pm.

TOMORROW Sun clear: 7.40 am. Sun sets: 4.49 pm.

Moon rises: 9.14 am. Moon sets: 8.02 pm.

First quarter February 5

LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY London 5.17 pm to 7.10 am

Edinburgh 5.19 pm to 7.25 am

Manchester 5.19 pm to 7.25 am

Pennance 5.43 pm to 7.27 am

TOMORROW London 5.19 pm to 7.08 am

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1441.0 (+14.0)
FT-SE 100
1808.3 (+10.2)
Bargains
34168 (37029)
USM (Datastream)
141.12 (+0.09)
THE POUND
US Dollar
1.5120 (-0.0255)
W German mark
2.7685 (+0.0187)
Trade-weighted
68.5 (-0.3)

Hestair in
farm tool
buyout sale

Hestair, the industrial holding company, has sold its remaining farm equipment interests to a management buyout team for £503,000. The company announced four months ago that it was moving out of farm equipment and engineering in favour of consumer industries. The Stanley Webb precision seed drill manufacturer, which has been sold to the management, has a book value of £338,000.

Kodak first

Eastman Kodak is investing £260 million (£27.3 million) in a new plant in Limerick in the Irish Republic to produce optical memory storage disks which it says are the first of their kind on the world market. The plant, which will bring 150 jobs, is expected to come on stream soon after full-scale production of the 14-inch disk begins in the US next year. The plant will be operated by Kodak's Irish subsidiary, Verbatim Corporation. The move is being supported with a grant from the Irish Republic's Industrial Development Authority.

Berisford sale

S & W Berisford has disposed of its wool merchandising activities - which are carried out by a number of companies operating through Berisford Wool - for £2.4 million cash.

Hawker buy

Hawker Siddeley has bought the Los Angeles-based Metromaster from Ducommun Inc for approximately £6.5 million (\$9.8 million) cash. Metromaster distributes electrical test, measurement and control products.

Units switch

Dialvest intends to seek shareholders' approval of a proposal to unbundle the company, involving the transfer of net assets (after repayment of income taxes) to a new authorized unit trust, MIM Britannia Assets and Earnings Trust.

Rival suitor

Fothergill & Harvey announced it had been approached by a potential alternative suitor to Courtaulds. Courtaulds raised its bid last Wednesday by 33 per cent to £38.4 million, but has so far failed to win F&H's approval.

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MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York 2147.22 (-12.79)
Dow Jones 2147.22 (-12.79)
Nikkei Dow 20048.35 (+127.30)
Hong Kong
Hang Seng 262.93 (+3.1)
Amsterdam Gen 1486.3 (-17.3)
Frankfurt
DAX 1808.2 (+30.7)
Brussels
General 1810.4 (+4.6)
Paris CAC 547.50 (+7.90)
London FT 85.51 (-0.04)
Recent Issues Page 24
Closing Prices Page 27

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 11%
3-month Interbank 11% 11%
3-month eligible bills 10% 10%
buying rate
US Prime Rate 7 1/8%
Federal Funds 5 1/8%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.58-5.59%
30-year bonds 100 1/2-1 1/8%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£/\$ 1.5120
£/DM 2.7685
£/Sfr 1.5450
£/FF 6.1135
£/Yen 152.55
Index 104.3
SDR 92.82/100

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

GRASS
RUBBER 1290 (+50)
Avon Rubber 4310 (+180)
GKN 3160 (+180)
Vaux Breweries 3580 (+50)
Metal Box 2270 (+140)
Greene King 3140 (+180)
Thomson T-Line 4550 (+380)
Erskine House 1750 (+180)
T. Cowie 4250 (+120)
WAR Jacob 2500 (+220)
Lucas 2240 (+100)
Christie Intl. 5800 (+120)

GOLD

London Fixing
AM \$407.30 pm \$407.50
close \$404.00-404.75 (\$287.00-287.75)
New York
Comex \$402.50-403.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Break (Mar): pm \$18.30/bbl (\$18.20)
Donton latest trading price

Pound tumbles in slipstream

Dollar shakes
off doldrums

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The dollar recovered strongly yesterday, on figures showing a big reduction in the US trade deficit. The prospect of a Group of Five meeting next weekend also helped.

The dollar gained ground sharply on all currencies, both before and after the announcement that the US trade deficit had narrowed to \$10.66 billion last month, a much smaller deficit than the market had been expecting.

The dollar rose by more than four pence against the mark, closing at DM1.8310 in London. Against the yen it rose from ¥151.95 to ¥153.60.

The pound was hit hard by the dollar's rise, falling by 2.75 pence to \$1.5120. But it gained a little ground against the European currencies and the fall in the sterling index was

restricted to a 0.3 point drop to 68.5.

As well as the US trade improvement, short-term interest rates in Germany fell sharply, emphasizing last week's decision by the Bundesbank to reduce its main interest rates.

A Group of Five meeting next weekend remains on the cards although the dollar's revival may have made it less urgent. Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, failed to clarify the position in evidence yesterday to Congress.

Mr Baker, after earlier telling the Joint Economic Committee of Congress that "there are no present plans for a Group of Five meeting," later said that such a meeting was under consideration.

"I think it's clear there is

some consideration being given to the possibility," he said, adding that "no decision has been made as I sit here this morning."

His remarks were interpreted as a signal from Washington that before a meeting of the Group of Five is agreed, it needs to have a good chance of success.

Dealers believe that the dollar's climb in recent days, and in particular its break above DM1.80, may be only a temporary respite for the currency and that further falls could be in store without concerted international action.

Mr Baker refused to comment on suggestions that the US authorities have been intervening in the foreign exchanges in support of the dollar against the yen.

US deficit hits new record

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US merchandise trade deficit narrowed in December but not enough to improve the end of year figures which rose to a record \$169.8 billion (£113.2 billion).

This compounded the Reagan Administration's trade problems and renewed fears that the dollar would continue to drop. Initially, market reaction was favourable and the dollar rose in response to the December deficit of \$10.7 billion (£7.1 billion) which

was smaller than expected. But economists gave a warning that it was too early to declare that the trade crisis was over.

Analysts noted that the drop in December's deficit reflected a reduction in the value of imports not an improvement in American exports.

The trade figures were released on a day during which Japan reported a record trade surplus of \$85.97 billion and

Mr James Baker, the Treasury Secretary, renewed his warning that other nations must help the United States move into balance by inflating their domestic economies.

"If the costs of this adjustment are to be held to the minimum, exchange rate changes must be complemented by stronger growth abroad and measures to adjust the structures of our economies," Mr Baker said.

Takeover rules
to be changed

By John Bell and Lawrence Lever

The City Takeover Panel is making important revisions to its rules in the light of the Guinness scandal. The changes will require substantially more disclosure from those dealing in the shares of companies involved in takeovers.

Breaking its silence for the first time since the Government launched its investigation into the brewing and leisure group, the Panel said last night that it viewed events with the greatest concern.

"It appears that there may have been breaches of the law. It seems likely that there were also material and it would well be in some cases deliberate breaches of the Takeover Code," said the statement.

"These concern disclosures of dealings which should have been made but were not," the Panel added that if any of the people who received a secret undertaking of support from Guinness and were working in concert with Guinness, also bought shares at above the level of the cash offer by Guinness for Distillers, then that would have had significant consequences under the code for the Guinness offer.

Meanwhile it emerged yesterday that Mr Ernest Saunders, the former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, authorized the payment of more than £3 million to a Swiss company connected with Mr Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker.

Mr Parnes yesterday wrote to Mr Guinness and to Sir Jack Lyons, the former Bain & Co adviser who this week admitted receiving fees of £2 million

from the company, asking for a fuller explanation of the services they claim to have provided.

The payment of £3.35 million to Mr Parnes was negotiated after the Guinness bid for Distillers succeeded last April.

Mr Saunders arranged for £3.35 million to be paid to the Swiss company, Consultants & Investments. On Thursday, Mr Parnes admitted receiving "approximately £3 million" for "key advice" he provided during the takeover battle for Distillers.

The invoice showing the £3.35 million payment to Consultants does not include any reference to the payment of VAT. However Mr Parnes is understood to maintain that VAT was paid on the money he received.

Sir Jack Lyons also admitted this week that he was paid fees in excess of £2 million for "valuable advisory services" given to Guinness.

Guinness wants a full explanation of the services which both Sir Jack and Mr Parnes claim to have provided. The company is hopeful that at least some of the money will be recovered after the precedent established by both Heron International and S&W Berisford who have returned more than £7 million paid to them by the former Guinness board.

Mr Saunders has not yet resigned as a Guinness director despite being urged to do so by the board at the same time as it sacked him as chairman and chief executive.

Mr Parnes and to Sir Jack Lyons, the former Bain & Co adviser who this week admitted receiving fees of £2 million

'14,000 oil
jobs lost in
Scotland'

By Teresa Poole

The fall in the oil price cost the Scottish oil industry 14,000 jobs last year, pointing to a total impact on unemployment in Scotland of 25,000 jobs, says the Royal Bank of Scotland.

In its monthly oil report, published yesterday, the bank says the price recovery since the year-end may reduce the rate of job losses. But it adds: "The tide will turn only when sufficient development projects come forward to sustain the North Sea market on a scale which will support the current levels of employment and the capacity of particularly home-based service companies to exploit the future market in both the North Sea and worldwide."

Any change to the tax regime would have to be aimed at accelerating forward field-development decisions. The bank suggests this could be achieved by allowing a significant but temporary offset of the development costs of new fields against tax liabilities in existing fields.

Oil production from the British sector of the North Sea fell for the second month running in December but the value held steady at £26 million a day because of the recovery in prices. Output was 2.33 million barrels a day. Over 1986 output from the North Sea was worth more than £9 billion.

The Norwegian Government yesterday approved a five-month, 7.5 per cent cut in oil output in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea to help Opec increase prices, despite protests from oil companies.

appearance of its cars gradually, taking what is called an "evolutionary" approach; hence the need to highlight what is new this time.

Throughout the weekend, newspaper advertising will be supported by 90-second television commercials - three times the normal length. Double-page spreads in the Sunday papers will lend still more weight to the message.

Mr David Fletcher of Bilt & Co, the media consultant,

BMW's £1 million blitz

By Our City Staff

West Germany's BMW auto company yesterday unveiled an unprecedented media campaign worth nearly a million pounds to launch its latest generation of high-performance cars - the 7 series.

The campaign's intensity surprised City media analysts. Most of the money will have been spent by Sunday night, compared with 30 to 40 week programmes for most large advertising campaigns.

Readers of national quality newspapers such as *The Times*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Guardian* and *Financial Times* were greeted by an opening onslaught of five pages yesterday. Only the advertising for privatizations such as British Gas compares in sheer volume terms.

The merits of the 7 series are extolled in tableaux aimed at making the consumer aware of the real technological difference between this and the last highly successful series. BMW only alters the outside

Boots acquires optician

By Anne Warden

Boots is sharpening its focus on Britain's increasingly competitive optical market with the acquisition of optician Wilkes, a registered optician with five shops in Essex and Sussex and net assets of £176,000.

The purchase makes Boots the number two in the sector in Britain, with 191 optical outlets, though still far behind Dollond & Aitchison, the biggest chain, which has 503.

Boots bought Clement Clarke, the optician in July 1985, and in April Boots has another 102 optical practices in its own stores.

The aim is to increase its hold on the optical market -

now thought to be about 5 per cent - as part of a programme of acquisitions and expansion which began in 1983.

Boots particularly wants to take on the quick one-hour service expertise operated by four of the Wilkes shops. "We think that this is the way the market will develop in the future," a spokesman said.

The retailing and pharmaceutical group, which lifted its pretax profits by 14.8 per cent to £97.5 million at the end of September, wants to increase its "health care" sector.

The optical side of its business was "quite small" compared with the rest, and the group wanted to increase it, the spokesman said, but he gave no figures.

Meanwhile, Mr Stanley

Rowland, deputy chairman of Dollond & Aitchison, said yesterday that competition was growing stronger in a finite British market.

The spokesman said there was little evidence from its business abroad that people bought any more spectacles per head because they were free to shop around.

He added that his company would continue to look at every opportunity in the British market.

Dollond & Aitchison claims to be the largest optician in Italy and Spain, and has practices in the Irish Republic, as well as a joint venture in Switzerland. Boots has no optical branches abroad.

Other big retailing chains which have asked a claim to

part of the £250 million-a-year market for new spectacles include Sir Ralph Halpern's Burton Group, which owns the Debenhams stores, and Rainers, the jewellers, either by acquiring independent practices or setting up outlets in their own shops.

Legislation lifting restrictions on the sale of spectacles by non-registered opticians was introduced in 1984, a ban on advertising was removed in 1985, and most National Health spectacle frames were withdrawn on April 1, 1985.

However, if the Boots strategy is anything to go by, the high street battle is making ophthalmic opticians - those who can prescribe - more sought after than ever.



Three cheers: Norman Burrough, chairman (left), Christopher Hayman, production director and Donald Gregory, export director

Truce is a tonic for Beefeater

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

James Burrough, the family-controlled Beefeater gin producer, was yesterday celebrating its escape from a potential loss of at least a quarter of its gin sales and up to 100 jobs.

The reprieve came when a last-minute truce was declared overnight in the trade confrontation between the United States and the European Economic Community.

US threats of swinging taxation increases on imported gin would have raised the transatlantic cost of Beefeater from \$11 (£7) a bottle to \$18. Burrough's US sales are worth about £20 million and the company estimated that two-thirds could be lost.

Burrough has now dropped its emergency plan to switch some distilling and bottling to

the US to avoid the tougher import taxes.

Mr Don Gregory, Burrough's export director, said: "We are glad logic has crept into the trade war. For us the effects would have been very serious indeed."

In the last full year Burrough had a turnover of £57.4 million with pretax profits of £8.3 million.

Outrage over move on ITC

By Colin Narbrough

Government counter-moves in the High Court against companies owed millions by the insolvent International Tin Council yesterday provoked outrage in Parliament and among ITC creditors.

By rejecting responsibility for ITC liabilities, estimated to be about £500 million, it was threatening the Exchequer

with revenue losses of £200 million.

If all 22 signatory states behind the ITC took responsibility for its debts, Britain would need to find only £20 million, he added.

Mr Kenneth Warren, Conservative chairman of the parliamentary select committee on trade and industry, said he was seeking an explanation in the Commons from Mr Paul Channon, Sec-

retary of State for Trade and Industry.

The DTI this week issued six High Court writs to strike out direct actions brought against it by ITC creditor banks.

In keeping with its stance so far, the DTI argued that the English court has no jurisdiction over an international body like the ITC nor are member governments responsible for ITC liabilities.

LIS names
new director

Professor Neil Hood is to be the new director of the government agency Locate in Scotland (LIS), the body responsible for attracting investment. Mr Ian Lang, Minister for Industry at the Scottish Office, announced the appointment in Glasgow. The £35,000-a-year post is initially a two-year secondment from Strathclyde Business School, Glasgow, where Professor Hood is Dean.

TARGET EUROPEAN SPECIAL SITUATIONS FUND

A net return of over 139% to original investors, since launch

The Fund was created to enable investors to participate in the fast expanding European equity markets with the identification of "Special Situations" as the guiding investment principle. We are delighted to be able to report that the net return to original investors, since launch on 19th April 1985, has fully justified the optimism we then expressed.

STOCK SELECTION

The Fund looks to provide investors with an opportunity to benefit from the growth in European markets and the potential to substantially outperform them.

Special Situations: The fund manager selects exceptional circumstances suggest that the share price is too low relative to the market.

Undervalued Stockmarkets: Investments will also be made in particular stockmarkets when they appear to be undervalued compared to other markets or when share prices in general do not appear to reflect potential growth in earnings.

THE NEXT ADVANCE

European economies are now strengthening. The outlook for 1987 suggests a continuation of firm domestic-led growth. We are now beginning to witness the beneficial effects of lower oil prices, falling interest rates and negligible inflation on consumer spending. Companies are increasing their capital to finance future growth and domestic cash flow is rising sharply in response to the increasing popularity of equity investment. Target European Special Situations Fund is ideally positioned to take advantage of these developments.

Please remember, however, unit prices can go down as well as up. Your investment should be considered long term.

THE SEARCH FOR PERFORMANCE

Much of the past two years has proved to be a time when the greatest increases in share values occurred in some of the best known stocks. As European markets were "discovered" by fund managers the world over, it was frequently the house-hold names which attracted the most interest.

However, we believe that for 1987 it will be medium sized under-researched companies able to demonstrate the strongest performance, as professional investors begin to appreciate the modest valuation of these stocks in comparison to their growth potential.

HOW TO INVEST

To invest in Target European Special Situations Fund, please complete the application form below and post it together with your cheque to the freepost address or phone our dealers on Aylesbury (0296) 344000.

For your guidance, the offer price of units on 7th January 1987 was £24.00, with an estimated gross annual yield of 0.13%.

If you retain a professional adviser, we recommend that you contact him without delay regarding this offer.

*These units are not redeemable for cash until 7th January 1987.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The minimum initial investment in Target European Special Situations Fund is £500. Subsequent investments may be made at intervals of £100 or more. The price and yield is published daily in the Financial Times and The Sunday Times.

Applications will be acknowledged. A transfer of units will be despatched on receipt of your application and a certificate for the units you hold will be issued within 42 days after they are purchased. 1 unit can be sold back to the managers at a price not less than the bid price calculated in accordance with the department of trade regulations and a charge will be despatched within 10 days of receipt of your certificate.

An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price of units (the Trust Deed allows for 5.25%). Redemption is paid to qualified intermediaries from this charge. Further charges apply upon redemption. An annual charge of 0.5% (1.47% of a share of the fund is deducted from the fund's gross income (The Trust Deed allows for 1.25%). The fund's assets are managed by the Target European Special Situations Fund Managers Limited, registered in England No. 447446 at Target House, Garsington Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2EN.

FOR THE LATEST INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS TELEPHONE 01831 6373, AND LISTEN.

To Target Trust Managers Limited, FREEPOST, Allen House, 176-177 High Holborn, London WC1N 7BB

I wish to open a £1000 investment in Target European Special Situations Fund (minimum £500) at the price of £24.00 per unit (as at 7th January 1987) and I agree to pay the balance of the investment in 10 equal instalments of £100 each, starting on 1st February 1987.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

My professional adviser is: _____

Please send me details of how to exchange shares for unit trusts.

Phone: _____

Target Trust Managers Limited is a member of the Unit Trust Association.

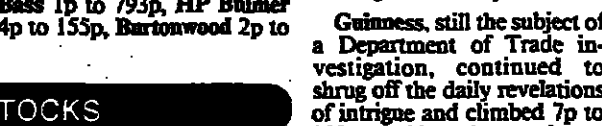
GKN prospects split brokers and leave dealers confused

As a result, Mr Barker has upgraded his estimate for the

The FT index of top 30 shares managed to close at its best levels of the day 14.0 up

Britoil	1,280	Lloyds	
Burton	3,300	Lochno	
Cable & Wireless	2,400	Marks & Spencer	
Cadbury Schwepp	3,000	Midland	
Coats Wyle	1,900	Nat West	
Corn Union	2,300	P & O Dird	
Cross Goldfields	479	Pearson	
Crookson Gp	322	Pillington Br	
Courtaulds	1,200	Plessey	
Crest	200	Post Office	

Dee Corp	2,700	Prudential
Dixons Gp	3,900	Racal Elect
Fisons	408	Rank Org



871	Unilever	153
2,300	Utd Biscuits	226
1,300	Wellcome	4,800
3,000	Whitbread 'A'	1,850
1,600	Woolworth	173

National Westminster Bank
2p to 572p.
● **FRANKFURT:** Share

Maize surplus

THE MAN

Tunnellers have to dig deep for public support

been radically changed. The contractors are no longer the main force and the new executive team is an impressive line-up of French and British talent with the right sort of backgrounds and more than

LEADERS OF THE TOP JAPANESE

raised — a task, incidentally, that will call for imagination and skilled marketing. About one quarter, i.e. £1 billion, of the loans is likely to come from Japanese investors.

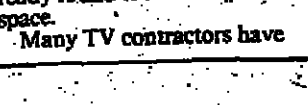
IN TRUST OF 1986
TO

Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000
Allied-Lyons	5,700	GAC Accident	578	Reck Howitz	3,000
Amstar	10,000	GBC	6,900	Reichle Colman	2,400
Arco	7,300	GAZ	4,300	Reidell	2,000
Ass Bx Foods	1,300	Granado	5,900	Read Int	598
BET	1,400	Grand Met	12,000	Realtors	3,900
BTR	3,700	GLS A	4	REI	1,072
Buckeye	1,000	GPRE	1,000	Reynolds	1,200
Base	350	GWN	5,000	Royal Int	717
Bell	2,500	Gwynne	9,500	Saatchi	1,800
Bell & Howell	650	Hansen	1,000	Shawbury (I)	1,000
Blue Circle	85	Hawker	705	SOC Newell	438
BOC	2,000	Hilldown	3,700	Sears	1,500
Bugs	710	Imp Chem Ind.	4,000	Seidgwick Sp	5,100
Bur	1,250	Imp Const Gas	1,000	Shawmut	2,800
Bx Aerospace	1,800	Jaguar	1,400	Smith & Hephew	3,800
Bx Gas	82,000	Lactolene	617	STC	51,000
Bx Petroleum	1,000	Land Securities	541	Star Chart	1,000
Bx Telecom	2,400	Liquid & Gas	1,700	Stearns	1,700
Bristol	1,280	Lloyds	2,100	Stn Alliance	700
Burton	3,500	Lochin	1,700	Tanaco	1,548
Buxton-Winnick	2,400	Lowry Spencer	7,000	TGP	2,100
Calcraft Schwep	3,000	Mifford	718	Tesco	1,400
Coste Vynalls	1,000	M J West	200	Thorn Emis	858
Com Union	2,500	P B O Dirad	2,000	Thornhill House	1,200
Corn Goldfields	479	Pearson	277	Thornstone Forte	1,700
Cookson Sp	322	Pittington Bx	971	Unilever	1,900
Courtaulds	1,200	Plesney	2,300	Unid Biscuits	128
Crest	3,700	Prudential	1,500	Walcroft	466
Dixons Sp	3,500	Rascal Elect	3,000	Waltham's A	1,700
Fluoro	408	Rand	1,800	Woodward	173

Good time for investors to tune into the television companies

investors looking at this sector as a serious proposition.

Many TV contractors have



Although their underlying enthusiasm has not waned,

e disregarded as a
lightweight.

EC2V7DX, Registered Number: 9073
Member of the Unit Trust Association

JOIN OUR ENT EXPRESS

Registered
London

Please click here for further information

The NatWest

11-0000

Investment Bank Group

Contact our direct dealing service on **01-726 1999** or complete the coupon and send it to us with your cheque.

The purchase price on 29/1/87 was 77.4p per unit and the estimated gross yield was 1.26%.

GENERAL INFORMATION
Contract notes will be issued within 7 days.
Certificates within 42 days. The prices and yields are published daily in the leading national news paper.

published daily in the leading national newspaper. You can sell units back to the Managers on any business day of the Bid Price ruling on the receipt of your instructions and a cheque will be sent within 10 days of receipt of your discharged certificate. An initial charge of 5% is included in the Offer Price a unit. Remuneration is paid to qualified

intermediaries—rates available on request. The annual charge is 1% per annum (plus VAT) of the trust value which is deducted from the Trust's gross income. The income distribution will be made annually on 1st May to unitholders registered by 1st March. Trustee: Royal Exchange Assurance.

Managers: County Unit Trust Managers. Registered Office: Garrard House, 31 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7DX. Registered Number: 907310. Member of the Unit Trust Association

COUNTY UNIT TRUSTS

Post to: County Unit Trust Managers Ltd, 161 Cheapside, London EC2V 6EU.

I/We wish to invest £ _____ (min. investment £500) in the **S.E. Asia Growth Trust** at the offer price ruling on the day of receipt of my cheque, made payable to County Unit Trust Managers Limited.

Or debit my ACCESS account Card No. _____

Surname(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss _____
First names (in full) _____
Address (in full) _____

Date _____ Signature(s): _____ I am/We are over 18

Please tick here for automatic reinvestment of income ☐

Please tick here for details of the County Share Exchange Scheme ☐ UNITSAVE ☐

Please tick here for further information on the County S.E. Area Growth Trust ☐ T 21

The NatWest Investment Bank Group

● **E** *dividend*, *c* *Cum dividend*, *C* *Cum stock split*; **Ex** *stock split*, **Ex** *stock split*, **in** *Cum all* (any two or more of above); **E** *all* (any two or more of above); **Ex** *all* (any two or more of above); (1) *Monday*, (2) *Tuesday*, (3) *Wednesday*, (4) *Thursday*, (5) *Friday*, (6) *Saturday*, (7) *Sunday*, (8) *1st* of month, (22) *1st and 2nd Wednesday* of month, (23) *20th* of month, (24) *3rd and 4th Wednesday* of month, (25) *1st Thursday* of month, (26) *4th Tuesday* of month, (27) *1st Wednesday* of month, (28) *1st day of month*, (29) *18th* of month, (30) *1st working day* of month, (31) *20th* of month, (32) *1st day of February*, *May*, *August*, *November*, *December*, (33) *1st* of month, (35) *15th* of month, (36) *14th* of month, (37) *21st* of month, (38) *1st Wednesday* of month, (39) *1st* of month, (40) *Valued* of month, (41) *Unvalued* of month, **Ex** *exchange account*, (42) *Last day* of month, (43) *2nd* and *4th Wednesday* of month, (44) *1st and 3rd* of month, (46) *2nd Tuesday* of month,

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

All commodity markets were heavily influenced by yesterday's sharp currency movements following the U.S. December trade data. Copper was the prime beneficiary of sterling weakness with the rally due to tight trade buying and shortcovering, but views of future direction remain very mixed. Comment by GNI.

COMMODITIES

COPPER
cash

J F M A M J J A S O N D J

2/home cash

DATASTREAM

May	1849-895	Tone	1cde
Jun	1655-650	Tone	1cde
Sep	1875-670	SILVER SMALL	
Nov	1710-590	Cash	368.50-365.50
Dec	1720-710	Three Months	373.00-375.00
Vol		Vol	18B
	4057	Tone	1cde

SOYABEAN

Feb	920.0-923.5
Apr	1280.0-77.0
Jun	1204.0-20.0
Aug	1151.0-16.0
Oct	1185.0-18.0
Dec	121.0-20.5
Feb	2.0
Vol	128

ALUMINUM

Feb	791.0-792.0
Three Months	500.50-501.50
Vol	1600
Vol	Firmer

NICKEL

Cash	2380-2385
Three Months	2405-2410
Vol	181
Tone	Firmer But Quiet

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK

Cattle futures

Average livestock prices at representative markets on Chicago

Oct 30

GB: Cattle, 92.62p per kg w (-0.64)

GB: Sheep 172.70p per kg w (-12.50)

GB: Pigs, 71.06p per kg w (-0.48)

Vol. 1000 carcass weight

WHEAT AND WHEAT

Cattle nos. down 27.4 % w. avg. price, 92.91p/kg w

price, nos. down 26.7 % w. avg. price, 172.02-172.40

Pig nos. up 2.8 % w. avg. price, 71.06p-0.63

COFFER GRADE A

Cash	883.00-894.00
Three Months	905.00-906.00
Vol	1300
Tone	Firmer

STANDARD CATHODES

Cash	882.00-885.00
Three Months	894.00-885.00
Vol	1000
Tone	Quiet

LEAD

Cash	293.00-293.50
Three Months	295.00-293.00
Vol	1900
Tone	Steadier

ZINC HIGH GRADE

Cash	478.00-477.00
Three Months	476.00-477.00
Vol	1150
Tone	Steadier

SILVER LARGE

Cash	363.50-365.50
Three Months	373.00-375.00
Vol	18

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FAMILY MONEY/1

This week saw the start of the Third Market on the Stock Exchange. It trades shares of mainly young companies not yet eligible for a full listing on the Stock Exchange or even on the Unlisted Securities Market. JANE ALEXANDER takes up the story

concern" can show a plan with good profit potential.

The Stock Exchange itself gives a warning: "There will be failures as well as successes among companies whose securities are traded. Investments will typically be high-risk and investors must recognize this and accept its consequences."

When the Financial Services Act comes fully into force later this year broker-

man of Guidehouse Securities, described interest as "not amazing but not negligible". The highest rise on Day One was recorded by Abelscot, which went up 25p to 200p.

Private investors have previously had the chance to trade shares in greenfield companies on what is known as

and the full protection of the Stock Exchange compensation fund, which pays up should a member firm fail.

Besides the OTC market, individual investors have shown themselves prepared to back new ventures with the Business Expansion Scheme. Shares of BES companies can be traded on the Third Market, unlike the other two new

but liquidity in these is likely to be low in the short term



David Michael: "encouraging" the over-the-counter (OTC) market. This is a telephone market with about 20 securities dealers (although perhaps only one offering a particular stock), which has had a few successes — with companies later moving on to the USM, as well as several failures and some scandal.

Investors in the Third Market, however, are a more privileged group. There is a proper regulatory framework

Indeed, marketability of Third Market shares is perceived as a problem, with only about two market makers in every stock and no minimum percentage of equity requirement to be in public hands. Mr. Michaels wants to "discourage" non-institutional investors. He argues, "A market-maker is purely a conduit. It doesn't really matter whether there is one or 100."

It is the investors, he argues, who have to be educated to provide the liquidity. But investors on the OTC market have been faced with buying-selling spreads of 20 to 25 percent.

Interest in the Third Market is expected to be high, with the New York Exchange providing an attractive list of members

THE THIRD MARKET: COMPANIES WHOSE SECURITIES TRADED ON THE FIRST DAY		
Company	Sponsor	Market-makers
Abelscot Group plc (graphic materials & equipment suppliers)	Alexanders, Laing & Cruickshank	County Securities Alexanders, Laing & Cruickshank
Aberdeen American Petroleum (mineral exploitation)	Rowe & Pitman Ltd	Warburg Securities Barclays de Zoete Wedd Robert Fleming
Allied Insurance Brokers (insurance broking)	Guidehouse Securities	Alexanders, Laing & Cruickshank Guidehouse Securities
Catalyst Communications (public relations & publishing)	Brewin Dolphin & Company	County Securities Henderson, White Jenkins
Eglington Oil & Gas plc (mineral exploitation)	Greig Middleton & Company	Scrimgeour Vickers Warburg Securities Barclays de Zoete Wedd
Publishing Holdings (publishing)	Greig Middleton & Company	County Securities Stock Beach
Theme Holdings (restaurants, health clubs)	Guidehouse Securities	County Securities RBC KITKAT Ltd
Unit Group plc (manufacture timber pallets)	Guidehouse Securities	County Securities Guidehouse Securities

But you never know. Your money may help to get a future Richard Branson off the ground.

1 1/2% Launch Discount
extended to 24/2/87
by popular demand



THE PROVIDENCE CAPITOL

SWISS EQUITIES TRUST

FIRST EVER AUTHORISED SWISS UNIT TRUST

£10.7m ALREADY SUBSCRIBED

THE CASE FOR SWITZERLAND
Providence Capital believe that, for UK investors, Switzerland is set to provide one of the best investment opportunities for 1987 and that the longer term prospects look very promising. Why?

- ✱ The Swiss people have undoubted energy and abilities.
- ✱ Their economy is growing strongly, with minimal inflation.
- ✱ We estimate that profits of Swiss companies are currently growing at the rate of 8% p.a. and should repeat this in 1987.
- ✱ The Swiss currency is likely to be strong, reflecting their surplus on overseas earnings.

The Trust aims for capital growth by investment both in the larger Swiss International organisations, such as Credit Suisse and Nestlé and also through lesser known but highly progressive smaller Swiss companies.

FIRST EVER AUTHORISED UNIT TRUST FOR SWITZERLAND
Until now, UK investors in Swiss shares have had to purchase their shares directly in the market, often involving administrative complications and not always knowing which shares to buy. Now, Providence Capital have launched the first ever authorised unit trust specifically designed to take care of such problems and to obtain a greater degree of portfolio balance.

PROVIDENCE CAPITOL'S RECORD

Providence Capital are ideal people to take you into Switzerland. We have experience – and success – in the management of Swiss equity portfolios. In addition we have direct access to some of the very best advice available in Switzerland.

The Providence Capital International Swiss Managed Fund has already been shown by 'Money Management' to be 1st out of 45 competitor offshore funds over the year to 31st December 1986.

Join us on the ground floor. Take advantage of our 1 1/2% extended launch discount until 24/2/87. Send off your application today.

INVESTING IN THE TRUST
To buy units, complete the application form and send it, together with your cheque to Providence Capital Fund Managers Limited. The units will be sold to you at the 'offer price' ruling on receipt of your application (with the additional benefit of the extended 1 1/2% launch discount, until 24/2/87). You will receive a contract note by return – and your Unit Certificate will follow within four weeks.

GENERAL INFORMATION

TRUSTEES: The Trust is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and is classified as a wider range investment under the Trustee Investment Act, 1961.

THE TRUST: In common with other non-Swiss investors, the Trust invests primarily in the Greater and Participating European equity securities of Swiss Companies, and avoids investment in Registered Equity Set areas because these are not generally made available other than to the Swiss themselves. The Managers consider that their freedom of choice in portfolio management is not materially constrained thereby.

TRUSTEES: The Trustee, which holds cash and takes to the Trust's investments, is the Trustee of the Trust, is a National Westminster Bank PLC, 41 Lombard Street, London EC2P 1BP.

UNIT PRICES: Unit prices and yields are calculated daily and are published in the Daily Telegraph and Financial Times. On 28th January 1987 at the offer price of £50.20, the estimated gross yield was 8.5% p.a. Your holding should be regarded as a long term investment and you should always remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down, as well as up.

TO SELL UNITS: To sell units, complete the Form of Redemption on the back of the Unit Certificate and send it to the Managers. Units will be repurchased from you at the 'bid price', ruling on receipt of your instructions – and payment will normally be made within seven working days.

INCOME: Holders of Income Units will receive income payments on 31st May and 30th November each year. Holders of Accumulation Units will receive an credit vouchers stating the amount of net income that has been accumulated on their behalf. The first income distribution will be made on 30th November 1987.

MANAGEMENT CHARGES: An annual charge of 5.25% (reduced to 5% of the offer price) plus a small rounding adjustment of 1% or 1.25% whichever is lower is included in the offer price of the units. From this, remuneration paid to approved intermediaries of sales agents are available on request. The Trust Deed permits the Managers to make an annual charge of up to 7%. An annual charge of 1% (plus 10% of the value of the Trusts deducted from the gross income. In accordance with the Trust Deed this may be increased to 15% (plus 10% subject to giving undertakers three months written notice).

MANAGERS AND REGISTRARS: Providence Capital Fund Managers Limited, Providence House, 30 Leadenhall Road, London W12 8PL. Telephone 01-749 9111. Telex 934227.

APPLICATION FOR INVESTMENT IN THE PROVIDENCE CAPITOL SWISS EQUITIES TRUST

To: Providence Capital Fund Managers Limited
(FREPOST, London W12 8ER) (No stamp required)

(Minimum initial investment £500)

We wish to invest £ _____ in the Providence Capital Swiss Equities Trust.

Units will be allocated at the Offer Price ruling upon receipt of application.

A cheque made payable to 'Providence Capital Fund Managers Limited' is enclosed.

(We wish to purchase Income 'Accumulation' Units. (Delete as appropriate))

For further information – please tick boxes as appropriate:
☐ Share Exchange ☐ Monthly Savings Plan ☐ OR ☐ Initial 100 and ask for FREEMONEY
PROVIDENCE CAPITAL



**PROVIDENCE
CAPITOL**

FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

SURNAME (MR/MRS/MISS) _____

FIRST NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE

Signature _____

Date _____
(All Applicants must each sign and attach names)

1 1/2% Launch Discount extended

[illegible]

These figures refer to Thursday's trading

FAMILY MONEY/2

Lloyds, the bank in your front room

Lloyds Bank customers will soon be able to take part in a home banking experiment based on an ordinary domestic telephone. Initially the system will handle a range of simple transactions for individual customers. These will include answering account balance inquiries and taking orders for statements, cheque books, travellers' cheques and foreign currency. It will also be possible for customers to give instructions for money to be transferred from one account to another, and pay their Access or other bills, such as gas and electricity.

The experiment is due to start in September and the bank's plan is that by the end of the year the system will be in operation in at least 1,000 homes throughout the country, including those of customers who have expressed an interest in such a system.

NatWest gets into gear for BA

NatWest's new touch-screen dealing service for British Airways shares. The NatWest screen dealing service was introduced in November for the British Gas issue and has handled more than 140,000 transactions involving 120 million shares. British Gas dealing will be withdrawn from the screen service on February 6 and will be replaced by British Airways on February 16. The service will be available for non-customers as well as customers. Private investors will be able to use the system to sell any number of shares between 50 and 5,000 by

taking their letter of allocation to any of the 245 NatWest branches that operate the system. A settlement cheque will be issued there and then.

The scale of commission for British Airways share sales is the same as NatWest charge for other quoted shares — 1.5 per cent up to £5,000 and 1 per cent on the next £7,500, with a minimum charge of £15.

The NatWest technology is impressive, but such was the scale of the British Gas operation that some potential users complained of long queue delays. With the Government's stated aim of deepening rather than broadening share ownership with British Airways, the system should be able to cope better this time round.



Pensions warning

The Labour and Alliance party leaders were warned by Legal & General this week that they must agree to accept the framework of the Government's new pensions legislation.

The new personal pensions are a simple, attractive and practical way to extend pensions coverage to many people not in occupational schemes, according to L&G's pensions director Chris Hatry. Mr Hatry said it would be tragic if the new pensions proposals were scrapped, particularly as they are the result of two years of intensive consultation. But, he warned, the lack of party agreement on pensions meant there was considerable political uncertainty as to what would happen to pensions if the present Government lost the next general election.

Although the present Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, has indicated that he has no plans to change the tax system before the next election, whoever occupies 11 Downing Street after the election could make changes that would be to the disadvantage of all present and future pension owners, says Mr Hatry. L&G has written to Labour and Alliance leaders calling on them to accept the framework of the 1986 pensions legislation.

Higher Giro

National Girobank is introducing a high-interest deposit account for personal customers. It will be available from Monday.

The new account will provide customers with a tiered interest rate structure with higher rates being paid for larger balances. No notice of withdrawal will be required and no interest penalties will be imposed. The tiers will start with a minimum balance of £1,000 and in the first tier, for balances up to £3,999, an interest rate of at least 2 per cent above Girobank's ordinary deposit rate will be paid. A higher rate will be paid for balances between £4,000 and £9,999 and for savers with £10,000 or more to invest, the rate will be higher again. Interest will be calculated daily on cleared balances with statements issued quarterly.

PEPs at the double

The M&G unit trust group has launched a Personal Equity Plan scheme limited to its own unit trusts. Investors can contribute up to £420 a year, either as a lump sum or in regular monthly payments of £35, into a choice of 23 M&G unit trusts. There are no management fees other than the normal charges of the underlying unit trusts.

Also new on the PEPs front is the choice of two plans from Coutts Bank. These are available only if you are a customer, except by what the top people's bank calls "special arrangement".

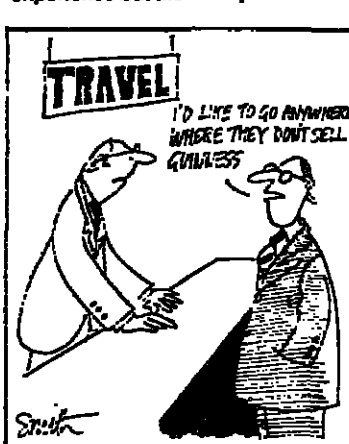
Growing Gold

Leeds Permanent Building Society has increased the interest rates on the top two tiers of its Liquid Gold Account. The rate on balances of £5,000 and over is up

from 8.25 per cent to 8.5 per cent (11.97 per cent gross). The interest rate on balances of £10,000 and over is increased from 8.5 per cent to 8.75 per cent (12.32 per cent gross).

Your business book

Yorkshire Bank has published the first of a series of booklets designed for business customers. It is called *Going into Business* and it tackles a list of important questions from "Should I go into business?" and "Should I go it alone?" to "What help is available and where?"



purchases in pointing out that it is not an easy option and that success in business is likely to need advice and support.

The booklet takes people wanting to be their own boss step by step through the stages of deciding on the best business, starting up and seeking finance, and planning for future success and profit.

A cash flow forecast and guide designed specifically for a new business comes with the booklet, which is available at all branches of the Yorkshire Bank.

For home swaps

In the article on home swaps in last Saturday's *Family Money*, the address and telephone number of Interchange Holidays were wrongly quoted. The correct details are 6 Blackden Close, Belper, Derbyshire (0773 824067).

Another innovation from Fidelity

The cheapest, easiest way to buy Gilts.

With a monthly income.

Announcing two important breakthroughs for gilt investors, Fidelity has abolished totally the initial charges on its Gilt & Fixed Interest Trust and has introduced monthly income payments.

Our Gilt & Fixed Interest Trust is now the cheapest, easiest way to invest in a professionally managed portfolio of gilts. It's even cheaper than the Post Office. By dropping the normal 3% initial charge the average gilt investor saves several hundred pounds. With the introduction of monthly income payments you enjoy the high return gilt investment offers on a much more regular basis. A secure income protected by the Government, offering a current gross yield of 9.92% at 27th January 1987.

Fidelity now leads the way in gilt investment. Call us today about these major innovations. The lines are open between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. every weekend and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Friday. If you have difficulty in calling us due to the BT dispute, please try again or post the coupon.

Remember the price of units and income from them can go down as well as up.

Callfree Fidelity 0800 414161

To: Fidelity Investment Services Limited, River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 1DY. Please send me details of Fidelity's enhanced Gilt and Fixed Interest Trust.

Full name: Mr Mrs Miss

Address:

Postcode:

Fidelity
MAKING MONEY MAKE MONEY

Fidelity
Unit Trust
Managers
Competition
Winners 1986
Daily Telegraph
Unit Trust
Managers of
the Year 1986
Money Magazine

A fair air share

At 125p a share, British Airways looks a good buy-and-fly for stage as well as a sound longer-term holding for investors who want direct equity exposure to a major airline.

The price, announced on Tuesday, was at the bottom end of the range predicted by City analysts, who are now forecasting a market price of at least 140p when official dealings are expected to open on February 11.

With major equity markets around the world experiencing new highs, conditions could hardly have been better for the BA chairman Lord King to welcome his new shareholders. The prospectus has now been published and during the next few days mini-prospectuses will be available from banks, stockbrokers and financial advisers and from BA travel shops.

Minimum purchase is 400 shares, making a minimum total purchase price of £500, but payment for the shares will be in two instalments, the first

65p per ordinary share being payable on application and the remaining 60p by August 18. At the minimum application level the amount payable on application is £260 with the balance of £240 payable in August. For private investors who continue to hold shares bought in the offer for sale until February 28, 1990, there will be a bonus of one free share for every 10 shares held. The maximum number of additional shares an individual can receive is 400.

Completed application forms and cheques must be in by not later than 10 a.m. next Friday, but unlike British Gas there is no guarantee that even minimum applications will be successful. The only official word on balloting this week came from David Backs, of Hill Samuel, the merchant bank handling the offer for sale for the Government. Mr Backs said that although it was the minister's strong desire to avoid balloting, no final decision could be made until after the closing date when the



Lord King: best conditions

level of applications would be known.

There is a fairly complicated system of allocation, which will be triggered if demand reaches a certain point. For example, if the UK public offer is approximately three times subscribed, 20 per cent of the shares initially allocated to the overseas markets and UK institutions will be made available to the UK public and employees.

This is an offer worth going for, but don't be too disappointed if you do not get any shares.

Peter Gartland

National Provident Institution

Notice of Special General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of members of National Provident Institution will be held at the City Conference Centre, 76 Mark Lane, London EC3 on Tuesday 17 February 1987 at 12.30pm to consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolution:

"That the Bill, introduced or proposed to be introduced into Parliament, promoted by the National Provident Institution, in the Session 1986/87 and entitled

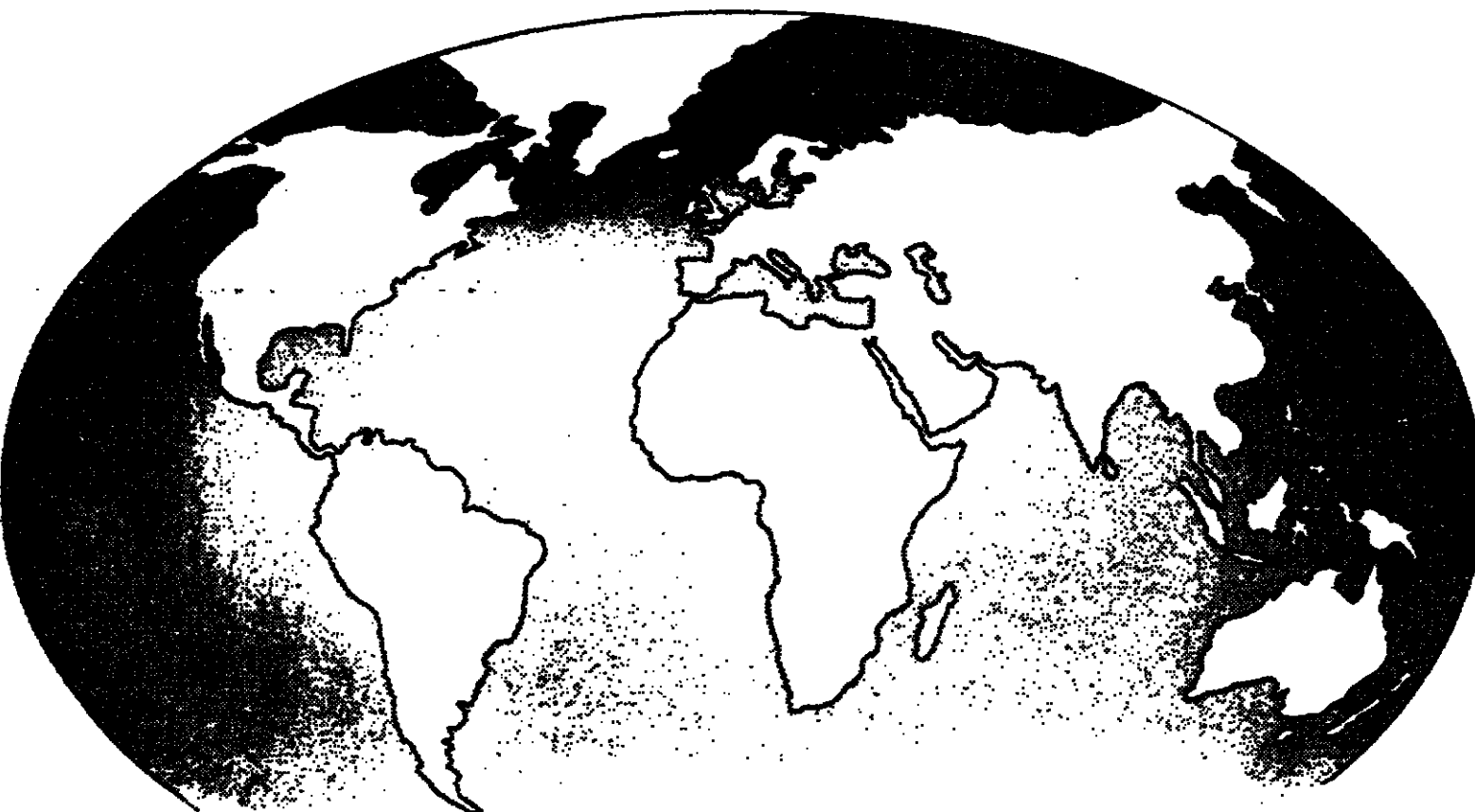
'A Bill to repeal the National Provident Institution Act 1910 and the National Provident Institution Act 1964; to make new provision for the regulation and management of the National Provident Institution; and for other purposes'

which is now submitted to this meeting, a copy of which has been signed by the Chairman for purposes of identification, be and the same is hereby approved subject to such additions, alterations and variations as Parliament may see fit to make therein and the Directors may approve."

The main purpose of the Bill is to update the constitution of NPI and to provide flexibility for the future.

By order of the Board, A. P. M. Davis, Secretary.
48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH

NPI



All yours for 64p

You can now buy units in our International Trust for around 64 pence each. And this investment couldn't be simpler.

Our pick of the world

We aim to invest in the pick of the world's stock markets. And to select top, well-managed companies in countries that are set to do well.

At MLA we expect the world's major economies to do well this year. As the Daily Telegraph said (30 December 1986), they look set to benefit from Japanese investment abroad, which provides "a strong underpinning for the world equity boom." Reassurance indeed.

We believe that continental Europe, Japan and Hong Kong are all poised for more growth in 1987. We plan to take advantage of opportunities in these markets as they arise, for maximum capital growth.

A 31.7% return in 1986

In 1986 alone our International Trust grew by 31.7% (on an offer-to-bid basis with income re-invested). And since its launch in March 1983 it's grown by 147%.

Although past performance is not necessarily any guide to

the future, we believe our trust has good prospects for 1987. And we'd like you to join in.

About your investment

The MLA International Trust is just one of six unit trusts managed by MLA Unit Trust Management, part of a group which has been trading since 1903 and whose funds under management now exceed £850 million.

Remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

With markets in the UK, Japan and USA reaching new highs we believe that now is a good time to invest. Worldwide.

On 28 January 1987 the offer price was 63.3p and the estimated gross current yield was 0.83%. Our prices are published in the Daily Telegraph, Financial Times and Times. So you can see how this investment performs throughout 1987. You can also obtain further details through our free Linkline number, 0800 525131 (Monday-Friday, 9am to 6pm).

On receipt of your cheque, a contract note will be issued immediately, and your unit certificate will be despatched within six weeks. You can sell your investment on any business day at the bid price and receive the proceeds within seven days.

Change this name, address, telephone number, or other details of your investment in the MLA International Trust. This form must be completed and signed by you or your agent, and sent to the MLA Unit Trust Management, 1 Sessions House Square, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Tel: 0622 674721.

The Trust Deed: The Management and Trustees of the MLA International Trust have agreed to invest the money of the Trust in the best way they can, having regard to the interests of the beneficiaries of the Trust. The Trust Deed is a legal document which sets out the terms of the Trust and the powers of the Trustees. It is a contract between the Management and Trustees and the beneficiaries of the Trust. It is a legal document which sets out the terms of the Trust and the powers of the Trustees. It is a contract between the Management and Trustees and the beneficiaries of the Trust.

Transfer to MLA: This form is used to transfer your investment from another trust or to transfer your investment to the MLA International Trust. It must be completed and signed by you or your agent, and sent to the MLA Unit Trust Management, 1 Sessions House Square, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Tel: 0622 674721.

MLA Unit Trust Management: The Management and Trustees of the MLA International Trust have agreed to invest the money of the Trust in the best way they can, having regard to the interests of the beneficiaries of the Trust. The Trust Deed is a legal document which sets out the terms of the Trust and the powers of the Trustees. It is a contract between the Management and Trustees and the beneficiaries of the Trust. It is a legal document which sets out the terms of the Trust and the powers of the Trustees. It is a contract between the Management and Trustees and the beneficiaries of the Trust.

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MLA · INTERNATIONAL · TRUST

It's your day for decisions

Entries for *The Times* 1987 Unit Trusts Competition have been arriving all week and today on this page we publish the entry form for the second Saturday running and for the last time for those readers who have not already entered.

Remember the competition is limited to one entry per person and entries must be in by next Thursday.

Readers will not necessarily want to follow the experts' predictions. Experience suggests that amateurs who work on gut feel and common sense have as much prospect of getting markets right as the professionals with their charts, graphs and research briefings.

Unfair on the professionals? Probably a little. As one of our panelists, Peter Edwards, puts it: "Thank heaven we professionals can adjust client portfolios to circumstances and are not locked into December 31, 1987."

Jamie Berry, of Berry Asset Management, believes we are still in a bull market and that there is every chance it will run for most, if not all, of this year. He has opted for three funds that offer an international spread and which are relatively small and aggressively managed.

The three are Baring East-

ern, offering exposure to Hong Kong and Australia. Oppenheimer Worldwide Recovery, whose investments are directed one-third towards Europe, 20 per cent in the UK and 15 per cent in the United States, and Touche Remnant Global Technology.

Mr Berry has picked this last fund on the basis that if there is a continuation of the bull market in the United States, technology stocks could come good. This fund's main geographical spread is 58 per cent US, 20 per cent UK, and 14 per cent Japan.

Peter Edwards, of the Bristol-based Premier Unit Trust

Market that may surprise us

Brokers say 1987 looks like a toss-up between Wall Street and London and that, although Japan looks due for a setback soon, it could surprise us by the year-end. Hong Kong and European funds should come good once more, says Mr Edwards, but probably not Australia, Singapore/Malaysia, commodity or gold funds.

Mr Edwards says that although the United States has excellent prospects, if the dollar weakens further or sterling

really strengthens, fund performance will be cut back. Although he is looking for a strong UK market in the early months of 1987, there could be a rough ride later because of political considerations.

Mr Edwards plumps for Baring Japan Special, Henderson American Smaller Companies and Touche Remnant Special Opportunities.

Our third expert, Peter Hargreaves, of unit trust advisers Hargreaves Lansdown, also Bristol-based, goes for Clerical Medical Special Situations, Murray Johnstone Olympiad and Touche Remnant Global Technology.

He chooses Clerical Medical, which will be biased towards the UK, because he feels Britain will be a special situations market and that the Clerical Medical fund should be one that can cope with prediction jitters and profit-taking in the summer. Clerical Medical, he says, will also be trying hard because it wants to make its name in the UK market.

On the recently launched Murray Johnstone Olympiad fund, Mr Hargreaves says that looking for value on a world-wide basis is now more the name of the game than trying to select specific markets that will do well.

Because 1987 will be a year for looking for value wherever it may be found, says Mr Hargreaves, stock-picking will be all the more important. He chooses Touche Remnant Global Technology because it has performed well in its sector even when that sector has not done well. Even so, he concedes it is a little more risky than his other selections.

Mark Searle, of Richards Longstaff, chooses Thornton Tiger, Henderson Singapore and Malaysia, and Providence Capital Swiss Equities.

Thornton Tiger concentrates on the smaller markets of the Far East, many of

Added boost of trade with China

which, it is argued, have benefited from the sharp appreciation of the yen, which has been good for the export prospects of the smaller markets. Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and, to a lesser extent, the Philippines and Thailand could all feel the favourable effect of Japan's highly valued yen. For Hong Kong there is the added boost of a recovery in its trade with mainland China.

Mr Searle stays with the Far East smaller markets for an-

other of his selections - Henderson Singapore and Malaysia. There are signs of a regeneration in the Singapore economy, he argues. He hopes Malaysia will follow suit. His choice of Providence Capital's Swiss Equities fund is based on his assessment of Switzerland as having a stable and well managed economy, plus well-known international companies.

This year, for the first time, we are providing *The Times* choice of three unit trusts. Our three picks are Dumenil Spanish Growth, EBC Amro French Growth and the John Govett Pacific Strategy fund.

All three selections are unashamedly high-risk and will do very well or extremely badly. The French and Spanish selections are based on recent good results in those markets, which we are confident will continue for some time. The Far East choice has been made for reasons similar to those cited by Mr Searle in his Thornton Tiger selection.

Many unit trust investors will also see that our three are funds that have recently been launched. Hard evidence that new funds do better than their older brethren is difficult to come by but we feel there is sufficient empirical evidence. If there is, it may be because

HOW TO ENTER

Enter *The Times* Unit Trusts Competition 1987 and you could win £500, £250 or £150. There are three categories - General, Professional Adviser and Under-18s - and there will be three prizes in each.

Pick the three unit trusts you believe will provide the best return during the coming months. To help you make your choice we are including the performance figures showing how unit trusts fared

during the period of our competition last year (see facing page).

To help you further, we also give a list of new unit trusts launched during 1986. Your choice of unit trusts might even include ones that have been launched in the early part of 1987. This is acceptable.

All three of your choices will be taken into account. The winner in each category will be the entrant whose total return is the greatest on the assumption of a national £100 in-

vested in each of the three choices. Switching is not allowed during the year.

Just fill in the entry form below. Only entries on official entry forms will be accepted and they must arrive at *The Times* not later than Thursday, February 5. The results will be announced in Saturday's *Family Money* in *The Times* during January 1988, and throughout this year we shall be checking periodically on the progress (or otherwise) of our experts' tips.

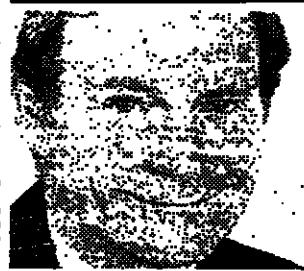
1987 Competition Rules

1. Competitors are invited to use their skill and judgment to select three UK authorized unit trusts (not offshore funds) which they believe will outperform all others during 1987.
2. The winner will be the competitor whose three choices, taken together, show the best performance in the period February 1 to December 31, 1987, on the basis of a notional £100 investment in each of the three choices.
3. Entries will be limited to one per person and must be made on official entry forms printed in *The Times*. Photocopies are not acceptable.
4. Opening prices will be those published on Saturday, January 31. Closing prices will be those of Thursday, December 31.
5. In the event of unit trusts merging, final performance will be calculated as performance to the date of the merger, plus performance of the merged trust to the end of the competition period.
6. Performance will be monitored by *Planned Savings* magazine and is on an offer-to-offer basis, with net income reinvested.
7. Entries must be received by Thursday, February 5, at the offices of *The Times*.
8. Proof of posting will not be accepted as evidence of receipt.
9. Employees of News International, *Times* Newspapers and their families are not eligible to enter.
10. The editors' decision in all matters is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

ENTRY FORM

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone number _____
My three unit trust choices for 1987 are:
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
Category (Please tick appropriate box)
General ☐ Professional Adviser ☐ Under 18 years ☐
Send your completed entry form to The Editor, *Family Money*, The Times, 1, Finsbury Street, London EC2A 4PU. Completed entry forms to arrive not later than February 5, 1987.
PLEASE MARK YOUR ENVELOPE - UNIT TRUSTS COMPETITION

Peter Gartland



Peter Edwards



Peter Hargreaves



Mark Searle



Jamie Berry

THE EXPERTS' CHOICE

JAMIE BERRY
● Baring Eastern
● Oppenheimer Worldwide Recovery
● Touche Remnant Global Technology
PETER EDWARDS
● Baring Japan Special
● Henderson American Smaller Companies
● Touche Remnant Special Opportunities

PETER HARGREAVES
● Clerical Medical Special Situations
● Murray Johnstone Olympiad
● Touche Remnant Global Technology

MARK SEARLE
● Thornton Tiger
● Henderson Singapore and Malaysia
● Providence Capital Swiss Equities

THE TIMES
● Dumenil Spanish Growth
● EBC Amro French Growth
● John Govett Pacific Strategy

ACT NOW! BONUS CLOSES FEB 4th 1987

EUROPE

It's TSB's choice for growth in '87. Make it yours, too!

Europe is still the investment world's front runner for growth. Which is why our Investment Managers have chosen TSB European Unit Trust as their recommendation for your investment in 1987.

Launched in March 1986, TSB European Unit Trust has already attracted over £32 million, with original investors enjoying a rise of 16.6% in the value of their holdings.

And we are fully confident that TSB European Unit Trust is set to continue this trend for the foreseeable future.

The TSB approach to Europe

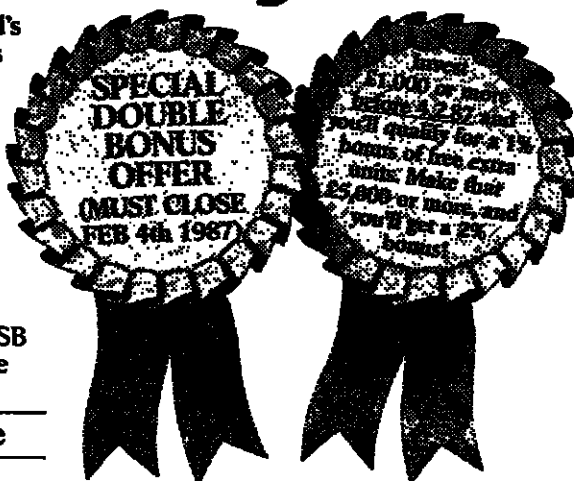
For our Investment Managers, Europe is not just one market but many. And success in those markets lies in identifying the right shares, and buying them at the right time.

In Germany, for example, the right shares will be those in companies concentrating on the home market, and least likely to be affected by the international impact of the strong Deutschmark.

*Offer to bid basis as at 28.1.87.

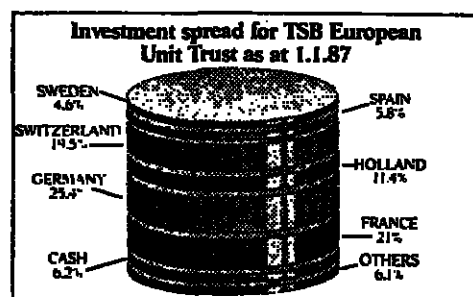
CONSISTENT RESULTS
If, in the four years since January 1983, you had invested £1,000 each year in each of our "Daily Telegraph" Unit Trust Managers' Competition entries, your £4,000 outlay would have been worth £8,948 on December 31st 1986.

Offer to bid basis, all income re-invested.



The long-term outlook

With Europe's individual markets supported by fundamental economic strengths, our Managers believe the prospects for TSB European Unit Trust not only look attractive over the year ahead but also for some time to come.



Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. You should therefore consider your investment as medium to long term.

Invest for a bonus now

To invest in TSB European Unit Trust, simply complete and return the buying order below, together with your cheque, made payable to TSB Unit Trusts Limited.

Do this before February 4th 1987 - and invest £1,000 or more - and you'll qualify for a 1% bonus of free extra units. Invest £5,000 or more and you'll get a 2% bonus.

It's another good reason for making our choice yours - for 1987 and beyond.

THE FACTS ABOUT THIS TRUST

Managers: TSB Unit Trusts Limited (Members of the Unit Trust Association). Investment Managers: TSB Investment Management Limited.

Trustees: General Accident Insurance and Trustee Company Limited.

Charges: 5% on each initial purchase; thereafter 1% p.a. (plus VAT) of the Fund's value, deducted from the Trust's income. The Trust Deed allows for a maximum charge of 1% p.a. The Managers will give unitholders at least 3 months' written notice of any change. These charges are included in the price at which units are offered.

Selling back units: Units can be sold back to us on any business day at the bid price ruling on the day instructions are received.

Payment will normally be made within 7 days of receipt of a renounced unit certificate.

TSB Unit Trusts Limited is one of the most successful companies in its field. It is also one of the largest. Turning in a consistently good performance, our investment managers look after over £1 billion on behalf of thousands of people like you. And we're part of the Group that likes to say "Yes".

Agents: Units may be purchased through qualified agents to whom commission is payable at rates available on request. Prices/Yields: Accumulation Units were being offered at 0.20p each and the estimated gross yield (equivalent to interest payable) was 0.93% on 28.1.87. Prices and yields are quoted daily in the national press. Income distribution: Income is payable on April 2nd and October 2nd each year. New investors who require income in April 1987 must invest before February 2nd 1987, otherwise the first distribution will be made in October 1987. Registered Office: Chancery Place, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1RE. Registered in England and Wales, number 1629925.



BUYING ORDER: TSB EUROPEAN UNIT TRUST

To: Ann Roberts, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, Freeport, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1RR. Tel: (0264) 63432/3/4

I/We wish to invest £ _____

(min £250) in TSB European Unit Trust at the offer price ruling on the day of receipt of this buying order. I/We understand this will include a 1% bonus of units if I/we invest £1,000 or more (2% if I/we invest £5,000 or more) by 4.2.87.

I/We enclose a cheque made payable to TSB Unit Trusts Limited.

As a general rule, your income will be used to increase the value of your investment. If you would prefer to receive your income in twice yearly payments, please tick here ☐. For details of how you can exchange shares for units in the fund, please tick here ☐ or telephone the above number.

(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms (Forename)

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____

Date _____

(In the case of joint applications, all applicants must set out their names and addresses, and sign on a separate piece of paper. This offer is not open to people under the age of 18, or to residents of the Republic of Ireland.)

AN OUTSTANDING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY FROM SKIPTON BUILDING SOCIETY

20.3%

PER ANNUM AVERAGE UNIT PRICE GROWTH OF THE SCOTTISH WIDOWS MIXED FUND OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

All the potential rewards of investing in the financial markets of the world, with all the security of successful management in a proven capital investment bond.

Skipton Building Society has joined with Scottish Widows, a highly reputable life assurance company, to offer you this outstanding investment plan.

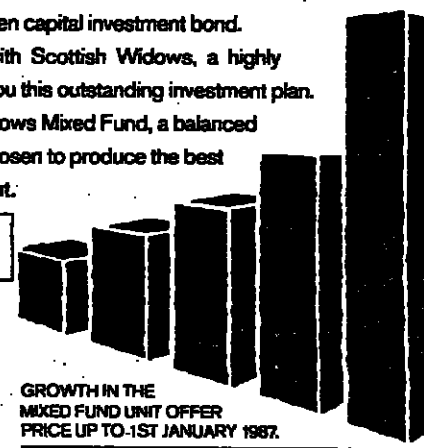
Your money will go into the Scottish Widows Mixed Fund, a balanced portfolio of UK and overseas investments, chosen to produce the best results consistent with responsible investment.

CONSISTENT GROWTH

Outstanding growth is the aim of this investment and, as you can see from the bar chart right, that has been achieved.

Of course past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance and it must be remembered that unit values can go down as well as up. But this

investment has been consistently successful over the past five years, and there is no foreseeable reason why it should not continue to work hard for you.



GROWTH IN THE MIXED FUND PRICE UP TO 1ST JANUARY 1987.
1 YEAR 2 YEARS 3 YEARS 4 YEARS 5 YEARS
+24.8% +43.8% +62.7% +82.1% +152.3%

EXCLUSIVE TO THE SKIPTON PLAN

You can invest any amount from £2,000 upwards, in the Plan. But if you invest £6,000 or more a bonus of 0.5% will be immediately added to your capital. And if your investment is £10,000 or more, you'll get an even bigger bonus of 1.0%.

If you're looking for capital growth in a fund that makes the most of financial opportunities worldwide, complete the coupon below and send it FREEPOST (no stamp needed) to Skipton Building Society.

ONE OF THE TOP TWENTY UK BUILDING SOCIETIES



SKIPTON BUILDING SOCIETY FREEPOST, SKIPTON BD23 1BR. TELEPHONE: (0758) 4581

BRANCHES AND AGENTS THROUGHOUT THE U.K. MEMBER OF THE BUILDING SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION

CAPITAL GROWTH PLAN

TO THE INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT, SKIPTON BUILDING SOCIETY, FREEPOST, SKIPTON, NORTH YORKS. BD23 1BR.

Please send me full details of your Capital Growth Plan. I am over 18 years old.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

T26

FAMILY MONEY/4

123.3	Equitable High Income	129.6	Prudential Capital	125.0
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**THE OBSERVER
UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
OF THE YEAR**

EVERY F
performing U
it trust over 5 y
recovery Fund outperformed
and unit trust over the five y
is the product of our co
performance, which won
Mercury Recovery Fund

Abraham Lincoln

The top performing UK-invested unit trust over 5 years

To invest in Mercury Recovery Fund, simply complete the coupon below.

MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD. - PART OF MERCURY ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD
33 KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON EC4R 9AS.
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS IS A MEMBER OF THE UNIT TRUST ASSOCIATION.

Please invest £1,000 in Mercury Recovery Fund (minimum initial investment £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/DISTRIBUTION* unit* at the price ruling on receipt of this application.

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY. A contract note will be sent to you.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss) Mr. J. Smith

Full Forename(s) John

Address 123 Main Street
London W1A 1AA

Post Code W1A 1AA

I am/we are over 18 years of age.

Signature J. Smith Date 1/1/98

Particulars and signatures of all joint applicants should be attached. *Please delete as appropriate. - otherwise distribution unit will be allocated. - Payments and correspondence will be sent to this address unless you specify otherwise.

WE GUARANTEE TO
MAXIMISE YOUR INCOME

Knight Williams

Independent Financial Advice
33 Cork Street, London W1X 1HB
01-409-0271

TT 511/87

payment to be on receipt of the contract rate. Payments will normally be sent within one month of receipt of payment. Unpaid amounts will be due at any time and payment will normally be made within one month of receipt of the renewed contract rate.

Management Charges: an annual charge of 1 per cent is included in the price of all units. The annual management charge is 1 per cent (plus VAT) on the value of the Fund. The charge is payable by the investor on the 1st January of each year. The maximum proportion of share on every three months' income the MATBZ is able to permit to increase this charge to a maximum of 1.5 per cent (plus VAT). The Managers are also entitled to rounding adjustment included in the bid and the offer prices: 1/2p to 1 per cent or 1/2p to 1 per cent.

Audited annual accounts will be sent to unit-holders, and a report on the performance of the Fund together with a statement of the Manager will be sent to unit-holders twice a year on the 1st January and 1st July.

1

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INSURANCE

Planning a late winter skiing holiday? **ROD MORRISON** offers some timely insurance advice

Few people set off on a winter holiday with the idea of breaking a leg. But the possibility is there and, of all the popular sporting activities, skiing is the one requiring some cover by insurance.

Many tour operators insist on cover being taken out, either through schemes provided by themselves or from other sources. The cost of tour operator packages is usually cheaper, as insurers prefer dealing with bulk business, but the cheaper the cover the lower the benefits.

Although insurance companies are not tripping over themselves to offer policies tailored to the winter market, shopping around, for instance to obtain special cover for ski equipment, can be rewarding and is of course essential for those making their own holiday arrangements.

Given the added risks of skiing, premiums on winter sports policies are usually double the normal holiday rates. Some tour operators insist on holidaymakers using the policies they offer but for those not subject to such restrictive practices there are a number of points to consider when buying insurance.

For a start, a decent level of medical expense cover should be obtained. The usual norms quoted are £100,000, for European holidays, rising to £250,000 for North American and Swiss holidays. Included within these figures, usually, are the costs of repatriation

services. These are vital if the appropriate medical treatment is not available at the resort and it is necessary to fly back home.

If treatment abroad is necessary, some policies provide a benefit for every day spent as an in-patient, of between £10 and £20. If the accident is really severe, personal accident cover comes into play.

This provides a sum in the event of permanent disablement or death. Occasionally the death benefit is lower. But one word of warning — the insurer might not pay either benefit if the skier had had a few drinks, at lunchtime for instance, before venturing on to the piste.

Winter presents other problems. The recent cold spell made even the simplest journey to work difficult, and delays on holiday can be both annoying and expensive.

With holiday insurance, cover against delays can be split into three groups.

First, a benefit can be paid for every 12 hours the trip is delayed, up to a cash limit of £100 for the most generous policies. With Norwich

Compensation for delayed baggage

Union, General Accident and NatWest the benefit is free but it costs £1 extra with Bishopsgate, Commercial Union and Eagle Star.

Secondly, an amount can be paid to compensate for the costs incurred through delayed baggage. This is offered by Norwich Union, General Accident and Bishopsgate.

Finally, if the public transport system fails to get the holidaymaker to the departure

point on time, a benefit is paid to meet additional accommodation expenses and is given by most insurers.

A winter policy also has the loss of baggage and personal property benefits contained in any holiday policy. The maximum limits for claiming under this section are usually £1,000 or above. But the payments on any one item will be restricted to well below that figure, to around £200-£250.

So the full cost of replacing an expensive item will not be met. Another detail to consider is the amount the insurance company deducts before sending a claim — the excess.

To claim, policyholders have to report losses to the police within 24 hours. Loss of money can also be included but some policies have separate limits for money.

But excluded from cover altogether are contact lenses. And Norwich Union goes further by offering a 25 per cent discount on premiums if the whole section is taken out. The company suggests that cover arranged under a household policy, applicable for 30 days out of the country, could have already insured personal baggage on holiday.

Most of the insurances mentioned are included in standard holiday packages. The only difference is that winter policies suffer higher premiums. But Bishopsgate and NatWest Insurance, a broker division, with a policy underwritten by General Accident, offer special ski insurance.

Bishopsgate provides three added ski benefits to policyholders. It will pay to replace lost or damaged winter sports equipment but only up to £250. There is a limit of £150 on any one article dropping to £100 for hired equipment.

To pay towards the cost of hiring new skis, the policy pays up to £100. Bishopsgate also pays a proportion of the cost of pre-booked ski packs, up to £180 if the policyholder cannot continue skiing.

Finally, the policy provides a piste closure benefit. For an



Excitement on the slopes will be all that

extra £2 on the premium, a payment of £15 a day is given towards the costs of finding alternative slopes.

Under the NatWest policy, the piste closure benefit is free but it is limited to £5 a day. Yet the policy also provides up to £100 in the event of an avalanche. Ski equipment is not given a separate section but ski pack payments can be

More flexible but more expensive

up to £75 a week. The benefit for hiring new skis is limited to £60.

Optional travel policies can be an alternative to packaged policies. Under these, a policyholder can choose the level of cover he or she requires in every section. Yet though this route offers

flexibility, it is much more expensive.

Regular skiers in Britain can also take out insurance. Under General Accident's family sports policy, a £15 premium will cover one member of the family, with £4 extra payable for every additional member for a year.

But for winter sports, the policy contains significant exclusions, including no cover for damage to equipment, total disablement, third party liability on any equipment supplied by the policyholder, and any incidents arising from ski jumping or racing.

Glasgow-based broker Milngavie and Bearsden charges £25 for its cover, available from November 1 to July 1. The policy covers rescue from the slopes, a "get you home service" and cover for sticks and bindings.

WINTER SPORTS HOLIDAY INSURANCE (EUROPE)

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Commercial Union	£5,000	£1 million	£500,000	£1,000	£1,000	£250	£27.35 £41.55
Eagle Star	£5,000	£250,000	£500,000	£1,000	£1,000	£250	£24 £30
General Accident	£5,000	£100,000	£500,000	£2,000	£2,000	£300	£25 £30
Norwich Union	£5,000	£500,000	£500,000	£1,000	£1,500	£300	£20 £30
Prudential	£5,000	£500,000	£1 million	£2,000	£1,000	£250	£24 £30

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FAMILY MONEY 17

A little hope shines abroad

shadowed in joint ventures involving China, Japan and South Korea.

The overall picture is thus less gloomy than might be supposed from the horror stories told by expats returning home, or the reports of company spending reviews.

Certain realities have to be faced, however. Prominent among these is the question of shrinking salaries.

Little has changed since Inbuson Management Consultants observed graphically that "the gravy train is starting to slow down", when its 1986 Survey of Expatriate Salaries was published.

Mr Edmunds says: "For those at middle management level, salaries have gone down, conditions have deteriorated badly, leave has been reduced, and paying for one's own food has been introduced on jobs which once paid a daily living allowance." Some contracts have been worth "little more than the paper they were written on".

Expats International's own survey has disclosed that although 29 per cent of all its members, at least half of whom hold professional or managerial qualifications, had enjoyed salary rises in the previous 12 months, a further 11 per cent reported drops in salary values of anything from 3 to 300 per cent because of currency fluctuations.

Deliberate reductions in salaries offered at the contract renewal stage - as a result of cost-cutting and the willingness of other nationals to work for lower rates - compounded the Brits' misery.

Even so, 75 per cent thought they were still financially bet-

ter off working overseas - though not always better off where leisure is concerned. One respondent described life in an isolated Middle East location as resembling "pre-war Harrogate on a Sunday afternoon, only hotter".

For senior management, salaries and benefits continue at commensurate levels - £30,000 to £80,000 a year. The chance that they might one day be in line for such tax-free or low-taxed treasure, and in the meantime be able to enjoy a lifestyle, school fees and so forth unaffordable in the UK, keeps most expats on the gravy train. But maintaining their toe-hold is becoming much tougher.

It is not uncommon to find 150 applicants per vacancy and a far more selective attitude from employers. For worthwhile positions, qualifications and comparative seniority are now absolute prerequisites. Those qualified solely through experience are being increasingly beaten by university-educated rivals and a similar obstacle hampers anyone over 45.

Age and attainments apart, those dreaming about an expat life should consider where it will lead them in career terms - "a spell abroad" is no longer a guarantee of promotion - and the effect on their family. Not everyone can cope with culture shock or education breaks.

Care is also needed to ensure that an employer has the reserves to honour commitments, as some governments and local companies have delayed salary payments or defaulted altogether.

As developing countries accelerate their economies there will be a need for a range of technology transfer expertise, especially in agriculture and manufacturing. Demand for service industry expertise in banking, finance and tourism will be more widespread.

In spite of it all, there is "always a place for the determined and well-qualified", concludes Expats International.

Nicholas Cole

Fraud cover optional

Registered insurance brokers could be buying lower levels of professional indemnity cover in the near future.

Under plans to alter the Insurance Brokers Registration Act, due next month, insurance against fraud and dishonesty of directors and partners will no longer have to be bought. The proposals, sponsored by the Insurance Brokers Registration Council (IBRC), have "rough outline" approval from the Department of Trade and Industry.

Given the actions of directors in other financial markets, the timing of the changes could have been more opportune. But the IBRC was forced into action by the insurance market's reluctance to cover its own brokers up to the current legal limits, contained in Section 12 of the Act.

IBRC officials maintain the professional indemnity limits have to take into account what is available in the market. Cover against employee fraud and dishonesty will continue to be offered.

A leading professional indemnity underwriter at Lloyd's, Rodney Stone, said

the changes would present greater risks to the policyholder in the short term - but they could also enhance consumer protection in the long run by encouraging firms to take responsibility for the actions of these in charge.

Mr Stone said companies might take more care when appointing directors, and that as professional indemnity premiums were already high because of "general incompetence" it was unfair to penalize honest brokers further.

The details of the IBRC's proposals are still being finalized. A final draft is to be put to the ministry and then to Parliament. But Henry White-Smith, the IBRC treasurer, confirmed the "meat of the package" was as follows:

- The requirement for insurance against fraud and dishonesty of sole proprietors, partners and directors to be discontinued.
- Insurance on an aggregate basis to be allowed as an alternative to cover against each and every claim.
- The deductible on insurer

can charge a broker on each claim to be increased.

Mr White-Smith also said the nature of the IBRC's grant scheme, to compensate policyholders in the event of broker fraud or negligence, is to be altered. Payments from the scheme are now met by levies on registered brokers but the IBRC intends to "establish some pool of money to meet small claims". The scheme has been used only half a dozen times and is expected to be the IBRC's discretion.

The investment intermediaries' regulatory body, FIMBRA, set its professional indemnity limits for members by the IBRC standards. John Grant, FIMBRA's chief executive, said the outcome of the IBRC's deliberations could affect FIMBRA in the long run. FIMBRA's limits, however, are not controlled by statute and can be more flexible.

FIMBRA will be contributing to the Securities and Investments Board's compensation scheme but this will not be in place until later this year.

Rod Morrison

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FAMILY MONEY/8



Curbing the Costa crooks

TIMESHARE

The chequered reputation of the timeshare industry prompted the Government to issue a timely warning this week.

JOE IRVING explains

Frequent bouts of bad publicity are not deterring timeshare buyers. More than 85,000 British families have their own holiday homes to go to, from the French Alps to the Cumbrian lakes.

This number, according to the Tourism Advisory Group, a commercial concern linked to the industry, compares with 50,000 a year ago. In two years the figure has almost doubled.

The growth of timesharing, but more particularly the methods used to sell it by a section of the industry, has prompted the Government this week to issue a warning leaflet to buyers.

A spokesman at the Department of Trade and Industry said: "There have been many complaints and reports about people being accosted by high-pressure salesmen here and abroad to buy timeshares."

Michael Howard, the consumer affairs minister, said: "There is nothing wrong with the idea of timesharing. It is fine if you are sure that it is what you want, that you get value for money, and that any contract linked to it is fair."

A timeshare is one or more specified weeks' ownership of a property which can be a villa on the Costa Brava or a flat in an English country house.

Timeshare owners who hire of holidaying in the same place can swap with one another internationally.

Timeshares are usually on a development known as a resort. There are more than 40 resorts in England and Wales worth around £250 million.

But timesharing is an international industry, and British developers are active abroad, particularly in such countries as Spain and Portugal, which are popular with the sun-starved Britons.

Some of Britain's top building groups such as Barratt and Wimpey are major timeshare developers and members of the Timeshare Developers Group, which aims to curb the activities of less reputable operators by promoting a code of selling conduct and practice.

The two major exchange

agencies, Interval International and Resort Condominiums International, are also members.

The most strongly criticized sales methods have been the button-holing of holiday-makers in Spain, whisking them off to a development site, subjecting them to high-pressure sales techniques and getting them to sign a contract on the spot — and a cheque.

In Britain prospective buyers are tempted by attractive gifts and large discounts provided they sign immediately. Usually the contract is produced after an intensive build-up that may last two or three hours, from which there is little chance of escape without seeming extremely rude.

Pressurized selling of this kind is not illegal. Neither does it mean that the buyer, who goes willingly to the seminar or whatever it may be

per cent are not sure one way or the other.

Brian Wates, managing director of TAG, says: "At any one time 10 to 15 per cent of timeshare owners wish to sell, but many want to buy another."

It is when they decide to sell that timeshare owners come up against a brick wall. High-season holiday weeks are very difficult to re-sell, and off-season weeks are almost impossible.

Although a property may increase in value, a timeshare seller faces an almost certain loss. This is because in the first place he helps to finance the company's heavy marketing costs, and when he sells he may get no more than 65 per cent of the developer's current price for similar timeshares.

On top of that he can expect a bill for 15 per cent or more from the selling agency.

The big developers such as Barratt offer a resale service at commission rates around that level, but they have a hard enough job with first-hand sales to offer much hope of a quick second-hand sale.

Helping also to ease the resale problem now is the Timeshare Bourse, a monthly Mr Wates, who is soon to publish a guide to timesharing. He says that among 4,000 members resales are running at the rate of about 100 a year. He admits: "There are many more sellers than buyers."

Two other snags with timeshares are rising maintenance costs, over which the buyer has no control, and, for overseas properties, increasing air fares. As the Department of Trade and Industry leaflet points out, there may not always be cheap flights.

Its other timely tips reflect government unease at the way some timeshares are marketed and can be taken as not just some helpful advice to timeshare buyers but as a warning shot across the industry's bows.

The Government can do without any more of the business aggravations it has been troubled with recently. Mounting pressure is likely to result soon in a statutory cooling-off period for timeshare buyers. Here is the ministry's checklist for buyers:

● Sign nothing unless you are given a reasonable time to change your mind.

● Pay nothing at the first meeting — not even a small deposit.

● Beware of signing that day for a discount. Someone else will sign tomorrow, and so on, for the same bargain.

● Beware of gifts and prizes to encourage you to buy within a deadline.

● Insist on full details in writing, including the type of tenure, Ask for maps, plans and property descriptions attached to the property so that you can take them away for study. If they are refused, just walk out.

● Get a solicitor to look at the contract, and make sure that the timeshare is going to be worth buying.

● Ask about maintenance charges, how increases will be decided and whether you will have a say in the property management.

● See that the resort is affiliated to a reputable exchange organization, and has an owners' association to look after your interests.

● While abroad don't get carried away by the holiday atmosphere and be persuaded to buy something that you wouldn't buy at home.

The leaflet rightly stresses the need to seek professional advice if things do go wrong, and reminds you that you may be bound to a legal contract.

If the contract is signed abroad foreign law may apply and British courts may be unable to help.

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vestment in the plan carries risks as well as the chance of reward and that the price of units and the income reinvested on your behalf can go down as well as up. If you are in any doubt about this offer you should consult your professional adviser.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Your plan may be terminated at any time. You will receive the cash value of units at the ruling bid price. If your plan is terminated before 1st January 1989 it may give rise to a capital gain tax liability, and you will not receive the income tax advantages associated with a PEP. Your plan may be transferred to another plan manager on request. Title to your units will be held in the plan manager's name, and you will not receive the income tax advantages associated with a PEP.

The annual charge is 1 per cent (VAT). The initial charge included in the cost price of units is 5 per cent. These charges are payable to the managers of the unit trust, there are no charges in respect of the PEP.

All units are accumulated units in which net income is reinvested. Tax is reclaimed from the Inland Revenue annually to follow the accounting date on 31st December and reinvested when it is received. The first accounting date will be 31st December 1988.

We plan to launch another PEP unit trust in 1988. PEP 87, all units in PEP 87 will be sent details. After January 1988 PEP 87 and PEP 88 may be merged together and may be named 1 other PEP, launched at a subsequent date. Mergers will not require a referendum or meeting of the members.

Commission of 5 per cent (VAT) is payable to recognised intermediaries.

PEP 87 plan is managed by Framlington Investment Management Limited, a limited liability company, which has been approved as a plan manager under the PEP regulations. The PEP 87 unit trust is authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry and managed by Framlington Unit Management Limited. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc. Both Framlington Investment Management Limited and Framlington Unit Management Limited are subsidiaries of Framlington Group plc and are at 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5NQ. Telephone: 01-428 5181.

INITIAL OFFER

UNTIL 15th FEBRUARY 1987

TO: FRAMLINGTON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LIMITED, 3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON EC2M 5NQ

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE TO FRAMLINGTON PEP 87 PLAN FOR THE TERM SET OUT ABOVE. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WILL BE INVESTED IN UNITS OF PEP 87 TRUST AT THE INITIAL OFFER PRICE OF 50p PER UNIT. I ENCLOSE A CHEQUE FOR £420 PAYABLE TO FRAMLINGTON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LIMITED.

I CONFIRM THAT I AMAGED IN OR OVER THAT I HAVE NOT MADE AN APPLICATION FOR ANY OTHER PEP IN THE CURRENT CALENDAR YEAR AND THAT I AM A RESIDENT AND ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. I AUTHORISE YOU TO HOLD MY CASH SUBSCRIPTION AND UNITS IN THE UNIT TRUST AND TO RECLAIM THE TAX RELIEF ON MY BEHALF. I UNDERSTAND THAT WHEN TAKE MY PROCEEDS MY PLAN WILL BE CANCELLED.

SUBNAME, MR, MRS, MISS OR TITLE _____

FULL FIRST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER _____

TAX DISTRICT AND PREFERENCE (IF KNOWN) _____

I DECLARE THAT THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS TRUE AND CORRECT ACCORDING TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF. I AGREE TO FORGO MY WITHOUT DELAY OF ANY CHANGE IN MY CIRCUMSTANCES AS SET OUT IN THIS FORM.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

FRAMLINGTON PEP 87

T 31/1

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Paul Michael	10p	+50%
Red Holdings	10p	+50%
Nash Ind.	20p	+100%

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FAMILY MONEY/9

The benefit with a sting in the tail

The Inland Revenue's tax rules contain various quirks, some of which can work to your advantage, others not. Into this latter category falls what is known as the "age allowance trap". LIZ WALKINGTON explains

Age allowance itself is a benefit for which you can qualify if you or your spouse will be 65 or more at the end of the tax year. It takes the form of additional personal tax relief, that is, income on which you pay no tax.

For a single person, the allowance for the 1986-87 tax year is £2,850, instead of £2,335. For a married man, it is £4,505 instead of £3,655.

However, the rules contain an unpleasant trap for the unwary. The benefit starts to be clawed back if your earnings exceed a certain amount. For the current tax year, this trigger point is £9,400. For every £3 you earn over this amount, the age allowance will be reduced by £2.

What this means in practice is that you will have to pay tax both on the £3 of income, and on £2 that would otherwise have been tax-free, making £5 in all.

At the basic rate of 29p in the pound, this gives a tax bill of £1.45 for every £3 earned.

up to a total income of £10,675, at which point the whole age allowance is lost.

The effects can be seen from the table. A couple with an income of exactly £9,400 receive the full age allowance, leaving them with a tax liability of £1,419.55.

If they earn just £150 more, the age allowance is reduced by £100, and the tax due goes up to £1,492.05, an increase of £72.50. This amounts to a marginal tax rate of nearly 50 per cent, which would normally be payable only on taxable income of more than £25,400.

The upper limit on earnings before the age allowance is lost is based on gross income. So if you have interest from a bank or building society account, for example, it will be the gross equivalent that will count towards the maximum, even though it is actually paid net of tax.

In this case, you would not have to pay any further tax on the interest itself, so long as you are liable only at the basic rate. But if it took you over the £9,400 limit, you would have to pay extra tax on the amount lost from age allowance.

As with drinking and driving, the penalties for exceeding the limit are clearly quite severe. One solution, if you are likely to fall into this trap, is to opt for investments that produce capital gains rather

than income. Even if capital gains tax were to be incurred, it would, at 30 per cent, prove less expensive than the effective income tax rate of almost 50 per cent.

If you need an income, this can be achieved by cashing in investments at regular intervals. National Savings certificates are well-suited to this purpose, particularly as capital gains are tax-free.

The certificates pay no interest and are designed to be held for a number of years, usually five, after which they can be cashed for a higher value than the purchase price. In fact, the redemption value increases every year, though the maximum return can be obtained only at the end of the full term.

Beware taking more than the allowance

By cashing in a few every year, it is possible to turn this capital appreciation into an income, while the remaining certificates can be redeemed at the end of the period to return your original investment. In this way, there is no tax liability, and no loss of age allowance, because the returns count as capital gains and not income.

Another possibility is an investment bond, from which you can make withdrawals to provide you with an income. So long as you take no more than 5 per cent of your initial investment every year, there will be no tax due, as the Revenue treats it as cashing in part of the policy.

Beware, however, of taking more than the 5 per cent allowance, because this will set off another trap. Usually, any excess amount would be liable only to higher rate tax, as the basic rate is already deducted before payment. For age allowance purposes, however, any withdrawal above the 5 per cent will count towards the income limit, so if it takes you over the £9,400, you will start to lose allowance and incur the extra tax.

Another problem can arise when you come to cash in your bond. Any return that is deemed to be "profit", over and above the sum you in-

ILLUSTRATION OF THE AGE ALLOWANCE TRAP

Income	£9,400
Less full age allowance	£4,505
Taxable income	£4,895
Tax due at 29%	£1,419.55
Income	£9,550
Less reduced age allowance	£5,145
Taxable income	£4,405
Tax due at 29%	£1,277.05

vested, will be treated as income under the age allowance rules.

Moreover, while investment losses can be set off against profits for capital gains tax purposes, this is not permitted with age allowance. If you make a loss on your bond, you cannot use it to offset any excess income.

Guaranteed bonds are sometimes recommended to elderly investors, as being a way of using capital to generate income. For the most part, these will not avoid the age allowance trap, but there are certain types which can at least mitigate the effects.

An example is a five-year bond on offer from Cannon Assurance, which is designed as a series of single premium endowment plans. The initial investment is split among six policies, of which the first five provide the annual income, while the sixth returns the capital at the end of the term. By law, such policies must provide some return, but in the case of the first five, this is kept to a nominal £1. The remainder of the payments, which amount to 9 per cent at current rates, represent the value of the policies, hence only the £1 counts as income for age allowance purposes.

At the end of the fifth year, when the capital is returned, the portion deemed to be profit will count as income in that year, and may then give rise to a tax liability. However, the arrangement means that you can keep your age allowance intact at least for four years out of five.

Alternatively, you can choose to postpone cashing in the policy. This would be helpful if you were, that year, a higher-rate taxpayer, or had already reached your income limit. The money will continue to attract interest at current deposit rates, and the policy can be redeemed at a later date, when the tax liability is less or even removed altogether.



BBC-THE PLOT THICKENS

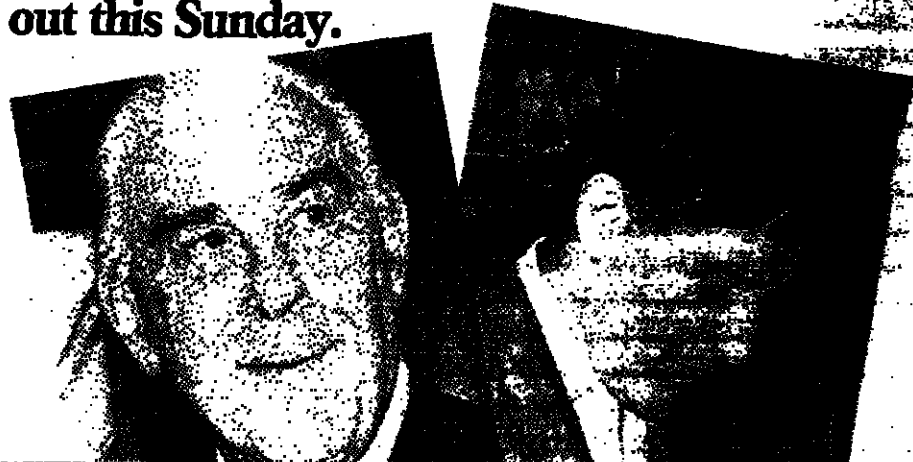
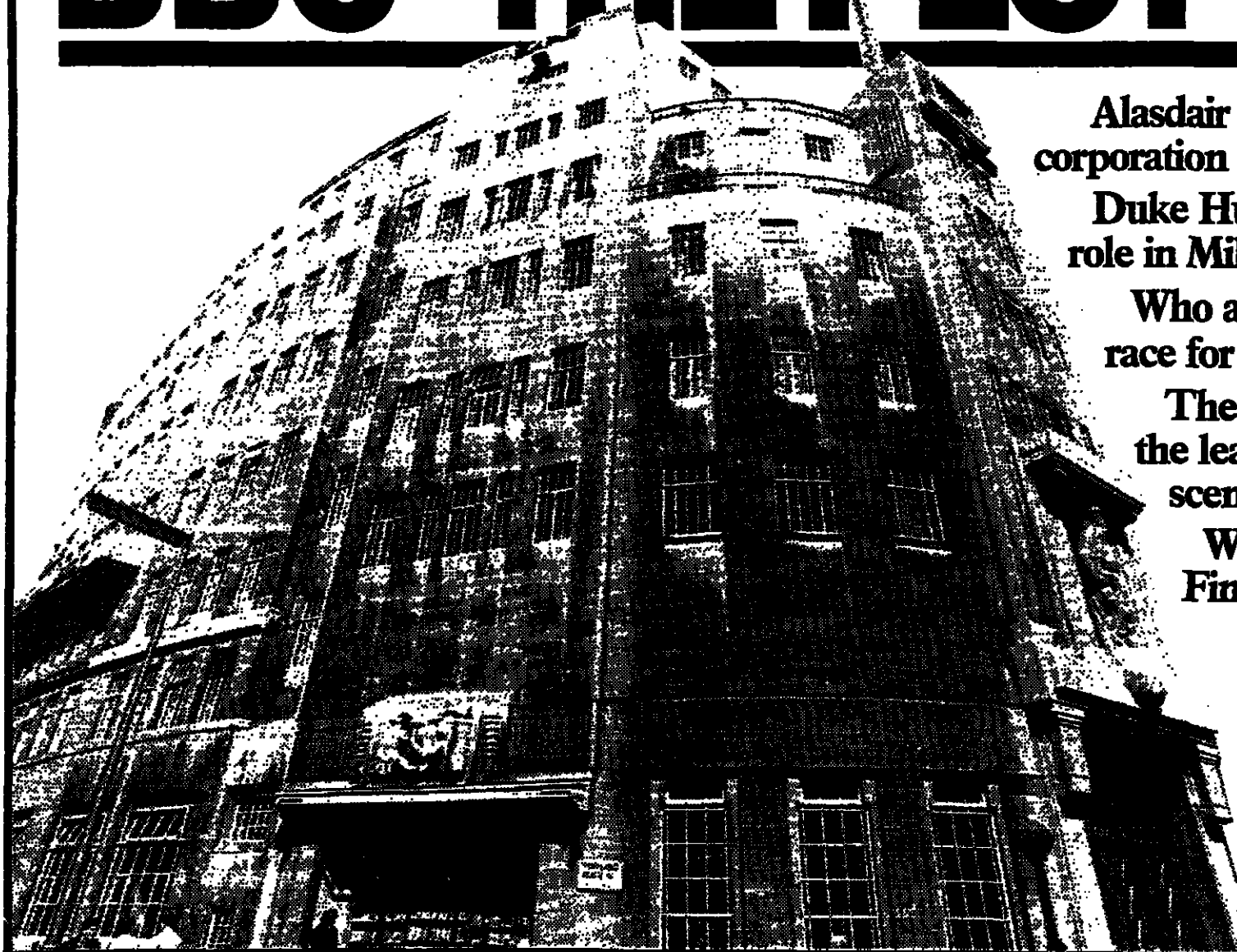
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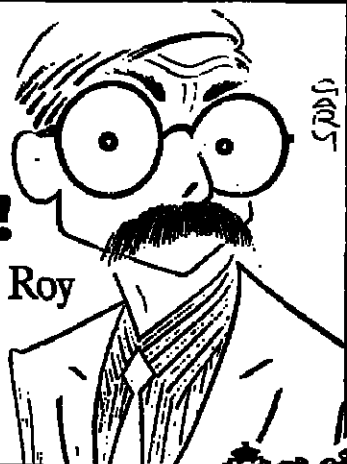
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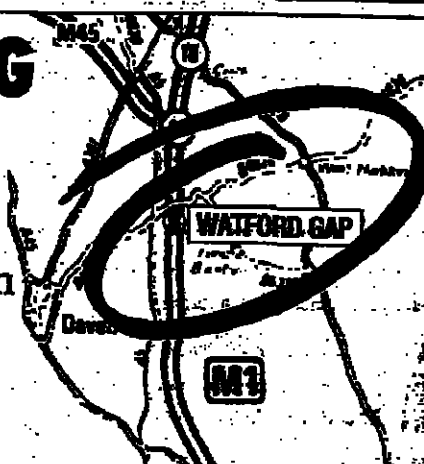
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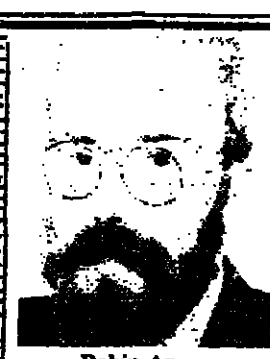


THE SUNDAY TIMES
BETTER THAN A MONTH OF OTHER SUNDAYS

FAMILY MONEY/10



Grant Cochran



Robin Angus

Four points for the investment trusts

The eagerly awaited and characteristically entertaining investment trust review from Wood Mackenzie is out today. It covers 1986 but WM's Robin Angus says he has a clear message for 1987. Amid all the other current uncertainties, investment trusts are an attractive each-way bet for investors, even at their present historically high levels. WM's case in favour of investment trusts is based on four points.

FIRST, says the firm, there is a new sense of purpose among trust managers. WM detects a new realism and aggression. Most boards and managers are under no illusions these days about their job security. They are aware that they are under scrutiny and are expected to get on or get out.

SECONDLY, this is feeding through into performance. WM says 1986's asset performance figures show that

More time and care spent on strategy

managers' efforts are bearing fruit. This, it says, is evident not just in the figures for the industry as a whole but also in the figures for individual trusts - notably the larger diversified funds. Part of the reason for this, it is argued, is that more time and care is being spent on strategy (should we hedge all our US dollars into yen?) rather than tactics (should we put 0.25 per cent of funds into XYZ Corporation?).

THIRDLY, there is an intensification of corporate activity. Even if managers wanted to slacken off, the market would not let them. For one thing there's £3.5 billion of buried treasure in the sector in the form of the discount.

FINALLY, new buyers are coming in - not just the institutions but also private investors.

Earlier this month, Edinburgh-based Dunedin Fund Managers became the latest group actively to woo private investors into investment trusts. In doing so it has added its name to a growing list of

investment trust managers who are determined not to be held back by the sector's inherent marketing constraints.

Dunedin's chairman Grant Cochran has set out his stall by offering a savings plan that shareholders can use on either a regular (minimum £30 a month) or a lump sum (minimum £250) basis.

The mechanics are simple enough. Savers deal directly with Dunedin or the Bank of Scotland which administers the plan, and so don't need to use a stockbroker. Shares purchased are registered in the name of the bank's nominee company. There are no front-end charges and no penalties for savers wanting to leave the plan.

Through the Dunedin plan, savers have a choice of four investment trusts that aim to provide either capital growth or income or a mixture of the two.

Similarly, Scottish Investment Trust is proposing to introduce a savings scheme, and among other investment trust managers offering savings schemes to private investors are Foreign & Colonial, Globe and Robert Fleming.

One of the prime attractions of regular savings in investment trust schemes is what the industry jargon describes as pound cost averaging. Put simply, it means that you get more shares when the price is low and fewer when it is high. Jolly useful it is too.

Savings schemes are by no means the only method employed by investment trust managers to win over private investors.

Back in 1984, Scottish American, in conjunction with Sun Life Assurance, launched a self-employed pension plan linked to an investment trust. Others have since followed.

There have also been single and regular premium insurance plans marketed by life companies and linked to investment trusts. Among the life companies active in this field are Crown Financial Management, Commercial Union and Equitable Life.

It would be dangerous to state categorically which schemes represent a good deal for the investor. This is because good results tend to follow good equity markets rather than exceptional investment managers.

The validity of this general rule can be seen in the investment trust performance figures for the year 1986 when top places were dominated by Far Eastern-investing trusts. For 1987 this is unlikely to remain the case and investment specialists are plumping more for Europe, including the UK, and North America.

What this does illustrate is that whichever route you choose to put money into an investment trust, you are embarking on something quite different from a building society account or National Savings. The need to keep an active eye on risk investments is paramount.

The last word is political

That said, the effort of getting to grips with investment trusts is well worthwhile.

Back to Wood Mackenzie for the last word, and it's a political one. WM reckons that investment trusts are a good each-way bet on the result of a general election. If the Conservatives win, the sector as a whole should benefit. If they lose, to be succeeded either by a straight Labour government or by some kind of centre-left coalition, then investment trusts will also offer a degree of protection. As far as overseas investment in an adverse political climate is concerned, investment trusts know the ropes and also have the flexibility to devise new ways of maintaining their geographical spread.

Put another way, it could be argued that UK share prices will rise, whoever wins the election. If the Conservatives win, share prices will rise for the right reasons, says WM. If Labour wins, share prices will rise for the wrong reasons.

Peter Gartland

Cost of poor health

If you are in good health the chances are that you will get life assurance at standard rates. If you have a poor medical history you are likely to pay more. Alternatively, but rarely, an exclusion clause might be added so that payment would not be made for death resulting from a particular cause.

In extreme cases the life company might turn you down completely. This is life at the really sharp end. When difficult cases arise a life office might seek help from specialist reinsurance companies. These are the companies that insure the insurance companies. They see a wider range of so-called impaired lives and so can make a more accurate assessment of the extra mortality risks involved.

Two decades ago the largest reinsurance company in Britain set up a data-collection system on an experimental basis to combine the experience of groups of people with similar serious disorders.

This pooling extended the range of risks which could be underwritten. It is now possible to offer terms for most adverse medical features, though premiums may be heavy.

Extra body weight affects life expectancy. Underwriters assess the weight of a person in relation to the normal or desirable weights for someone of the same sex, height and age. If a person's weight is excessive it will be regarded as an increased risk.

This assessment is often quoted as a number of additional years. Ten years would mean that a 50-year-old was treated as being 60 for premium calculation purposes.

Alternatively, the rating might be expressed as an extra percentage. Thus, according to one insurance company, Scottish Mutual, 200 per cent

History of heart disease ignored

would mean that the risk of the person dying during the next year was three times normal.

A 6ft man aged 40 usually weighs 12 to 13 stone. With double that weight, but otherwise healthy, he might be rated at plus 200 per cent and treated as a 50-year-old. So diet is important for more reasons than that of improved appearance.

Family history is a good indicator of life expectancy although underwriters seldom impose a loading for this alone. An extreme example of how family history affects life expectancy is seen in Huntington's chorea, a degenerative disorder of the nervous system. The children of an affected parent can be expected to be clear of any symptoms until the age of 30 or later.

After that, half of them will develop the disease which normally leads to death within 15 years. A healthy 25-year-old with an affected parent might be given an age rating of 30 or quoted an extra premium of £7 a year for every £1,000 of life cover. Heavy extra premiums are usually quoted in this way rather than as an age rating.

If a potential victim remains clear of the disease until 55, the special risk has passed. Life cover is then available at normal terms. If the disease is present, the underwriters are unlikely to be able to offer terms at all. If they did, the

risk would be very high and the premiums likely to be prohibitive.

Cystic fibrosis, although also an inherited disease, takes a different pattern because its diagnosis usually comes early in childhood. If no respiratory problems are present cover may be available but only until middle age and at ratings of plus 250 per cent or more. For more severe risks, cover is likely to be declined.

A family history of heart disease is usually ignored by life companies unless other unfavourable signs, such as high blood pressure, are present. Heart disease itself includes such a variety of illnesses that underwriters will want full information before quoting an extra premium.

During the five years following an isolated heart attack, and provided the sufferer has been at work for at least six months, cover is sometimes possible. The cost is heavy with ratings up to 10 years and an extra premium of £15 a year for the balance of the five years.

When there are further complications, such as an inability to return to full normal work, the risk might well be uninsurable.

Aids presents life offices with two big problems. First, they do not know how quickly the disease will spread or the number of deaths it will cause. Estimates are based on present knowledge and no one can accurately predict how much longer it will be before medical science controls or cures it.

Secondly, information about the disease on which to base a decision for life cover is hard to come by. It is not, yet, socially acceptable to ask: "Have you or your partner had sex with more than one person during the past 30 years?" In any event, how can a risk assessor be sure of getting a truthful answer? The compromise solution now being adopted by many life companies is to ask whether the proposer has had medical advice, treatment or a blood test in connection with Aids or an Aids-related condition. A "yes" answer usually means a further blood test and the possibility of life cover being unavailable.

Jennie Hawthorne

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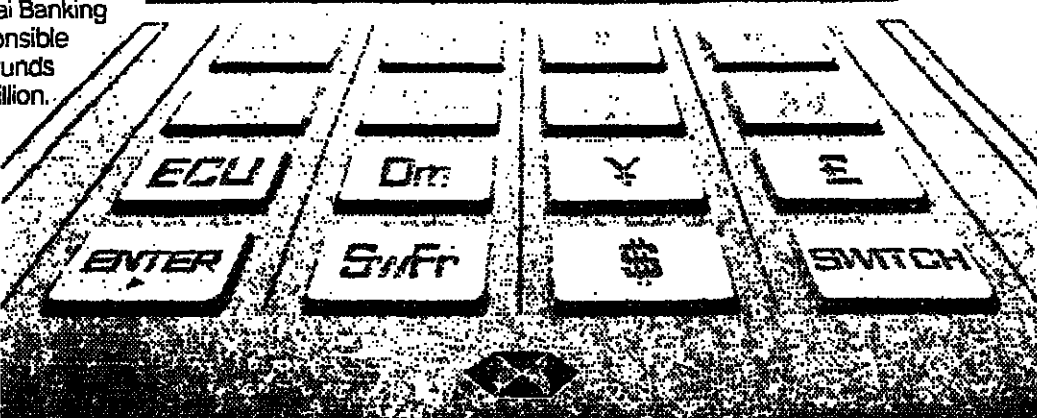
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POST TO: HARGREAVES LANSDOWN, Unit Trust Advisory Service, 100, Old Broad Street, London EC2M 1JL

EXTRA
UNITS UP TO
5th APRIL

The only 3 Unit Trusts most investors should ever need

With over one thousand unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose? In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust, and M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each: Recovery Fund for capital growth, Dividend Fund for an increasing income, and SECOND General for a balance between income and growth.

You should remember that new funds or funds which suffer a change of management are likely to be more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record. M&G's investment team has remained largely unchanged for many years, and our long-term performance record reflects this. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is usually the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective.

We are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more per Fund.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. This means that unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '69	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1970	11,760	8,570	11,020	11,058
1975	26,400	11,121	21,283	16,178
1980	102,560	17,287	40,175	25,521
1985	270,800	49,474	85,233	40,164
1 Jan '87	401,520	58,864	97,172	43,206*

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra-interest account offering 1% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

FURTHER INFORMATION: On 28th January 1987 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

	Income	Accumulation	Yield
Recovery Fund	440.3p	576.7p	3.01%
Dividend Fund	481.2p	1440.6p	4.74%
SECOND General	838.4p	1679.2p	3.38%

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The difference between the offered price (at which you buy units) and the bid price (at which you sell) is normally 0.5%. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price and an annual charge of up to 1% of each Fund's value - currently 1% - plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for Income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

	Recovery	Dividend	SECOND
Distributions	20 Feb	15 Jan	15 Feb
	20 Aug	15 Jul	15 Aug
Next distribution	20 Aug	15 Jul	15 Aug
For new investors	1987	1987	1987

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. The Trusts for Dividend and Recovery are Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND are Lloyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wider-range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1PB. Tel: 0245 265266. Advisory Services: 01-626 4588. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income and a yield about 50% higher than the FT Actuaries All-Share Index.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '64	£396	£536	£10,000	£10,000
1965	463	650	10,760	10,000
1970	828	871	15,300	10,000
1975	1,660	1,200	24,280	10,000
1980	2,278	907	65,160	10,000
1 Jan '87	2,690	744*	84,620	10,000

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society income figures are 1% above the average of the rate offered in each year (source: Building Societies Association). M&G Dividend capital figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 30-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '66	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1967	19,520	20,000	11,793	12,483
1968	31,320	26,230	13,482	16,093
1970	46,480	30,540	17,433	21,636
1975	79,840	39,620	33,107	31,651
1980	195,400	61,600	62,494	49,931
1985	546,000	176,240	85,618	78,580
1 Jan '87	734,680	209,680	88,934	84,535*

NOTES: All income figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra-interest account offering 1% above the average yearly rate (source: Building Societies Association). M&G SECOND General figures are all realisation values. *Estimated.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

All applications received by 5th April 1987 will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund.

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1PB. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of my choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable) or Accumulation units will be issued for Recovery and SECOND and Income units will be issued for Dividend. At the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

RECOVERY (M&G 11/01/87) £ -00

DIVIDEND (M&G 11/01/87) £ -00

SECOND (M&G 11/01/87) £ -00

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

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FAMILY MONEY/11

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Return at tax rates			Min/max		
	25%	45%	60%	Investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Deposit A/c						
Barclays	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-626 1587
Lloyds	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-626 1500
National Westminster	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-626 1000
Midland	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-260 8000
TSB	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-600 6000
National Girobank	5.00	3.87	2.82	1 min	7 day	01-600 6020
Fixed Term Deposits:						
National Westminster	7.63	5.91	4.30	10,000-24,999	1 min	01-626 1000
" "	7.50	5.81	4.25	10,000-24,999	3 min	01-626 1000
" "	7.38	5.72	4.18	10,000-24,999	6 min	01-626 1000
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary A/c	6.00	4.66	3.38	1 min		
MONEY FUNDS						
Aitken Hume Monthly Income	7.66	5.93	4.32	1,000 min		01-638 6070
Bank Of Scotland	7.66	5.93	4.32	2,500 min		01-628 9060
Barclays High Rate Deposit	7.13	5.52	4.02	1,000 min		01-628 1587
Cater Allen Call	7.63	5.91	4.30	10,000 min		01-628 1587
HFC Trust	7.66	5.93	4.32	2,500 min		01-628 2777
Henderson Money Mkt Cheq A/c	6.50	5.58	4.73	5,000 min		01-238 1381
L & G High Interest Deposit	7.66	5.93	4.32	2,500 min		01-638 5757
Lloyds HICA	8.15	6.31	4.59	1,000 min	1 mth	01-388 3211
M&G HICA	7.70	5.96	4.34	2,500 min		01-626 1500
Midland HICA	7.56	5.86	4.28	2,500 min		01-626 4588
Nat West High Int Special Res	7.45	5.77	4.20	2,000 min		0742 52800
Oppenheimer Money Mgmt A/c	7.70	5.96	4.34	10,000 min		0742 52800
Royal Bank Of Scotland Prem A/c	7.93	6.51	4.90	2,000 min		01-728 1000
S & P Call	7.75	6.00	4.37	10,000 min		01-238 1000
Schroder Wagg	7.85	6.08	4.42	1,000 min	1 mth	01-238 9362
Tullet & Riley Call	7.94	6.14	4.47	10,000 min	1 mth	031-5570201
Tullet & Riley 7-day	7.75	6.00	4.37	2,500 min		0708 69966
Tyndall Call	7.40	5.89	4.23	500-1,000 min		0705 82733
Tyndall 7-day	7.68	5.80	4.22	2,500 min		0705 82733
UBT 7-day	7.68	5.80	4.22	10,000 min		01-238 9362
Western Trust	7.95	6.16	4.48	2,500 min	7 day	01-238 9362
	7.92	6.14	4.46	2,500 min		0272 732241
	7.87	6.10	4.44	2,500 min	7 day	0272 732241
	7.84	6.07	4.42	5,000 min	7 day	01-626 4661
	7.89	6.11	4.45	2,500 min	1 mth	0752 251161
NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Investment A/c	8.34	6.46	4.70	5-100,000	1 mth	041-6484555
Income Bond	8.70	6.74	4.90	2,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 66161
Deposit Bond	8.70	6.74	4.90	100-100,000	3 mth	041-6484555
Indexed Income Bond	5.98	4.40	3.20	5,000-100,000	3 mth	0258 66161
2nd Issue Certificate	8.70	6.74	4.90	25,000	8 day	0386 64900
Yearly Plan	8.84	6.84	4.84	20-200 a mth	14 day	0386 64900
General Extension Rate	8.70	6.74	4.90			
Retail Prices Index	8.70	6.74	4.90			
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
FPS (Management) Ltd	10.1	8.48	6.97	1,000 min	1 yr	Notes *
FPS (Management) Ltd	10.0	8.45	7.00	1,000 min	2 yrs	Notes *
FPS (Management) Ltd	10.0	8.51	7.08	1,000 min	3 yrs	Notes *
FPS (Management) Ltd	10.0	8.54	7.14	1,000 min	4 yrs	Notes *
Premium Life	8.60	6.66	4.85	1,000 min	5 yrs	Notes *
LOCAL AUTHORITY TOWN HALL BONDS						
Reading	7.50	5.81	4.23	1,000 min	1 yr	01-638 6361
Bristol	8.25	6.39	4.65	1,000 min	2 yrs	01-638 6361
Bournemouth	8.25	6.39	4.65	500 min	3 yrs	01-638 6361
Bournemouth	8.25	6.39	4.65	500 min	4 yrs	01-638 6361
Bournemouth	8.25	6.39	4.65	500 min	5 yrs	01-638 6361
Nottingham	8.20	6.35	4.62	500 min	6 yrs	01-638 6361
Nottingham	8.20	6.35	4.62	500 min	7 yrs	01-638 6361
Valley of Glamorgan	8.13	4.75	3.45	500 min	8 yrs	01-638 6361
Taff Ely	6.21	4.81	3.50	1,000 min	9 yrs	01-638 6361
Taff Ely	6.21	4.81	3.50	1,000 min	10 yrs	01-638 6361
FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS						
Sterling	10.14				7 day	0481 26741
US Dollar	5.14				7 day	0481 26741
Yen	3.15				7 day	0481 26741
D Mark	3.61				7 day	0481 26741
French Franc	7.71				7 day	0481 26741
Swiss Franc	3.39				7 day	0481 26741

*Interest Taxable, paid gross. †Tax free. (†) Other banks may differ. (†) Extra

FAMILY MONEY/13

Bitter harvest follows the farmer's legacy

WILLS

A Somerset farmer, Derek Winstone, is embroiled in a family dispute over a will which has cost him about £20,000, and nine years of legal wrangling, which is still far from over.

The 38-year-old farmer says the tale is a cautionary one, highlighting the problems that can arise over the inheritance of an estate. It also raises questions about whom one should choose to administer an estate — a bank's executors and trustee department, professionals such as solicitors and accountants or the Public Trust Office.

Mr Winstone, a tenant of Parson's Farm, Stanton Wick, was in partnership with his father Edwin on 220 acres of partly owned, partly tenanted land. His father died in 1977 and under the will about half the valuation of the business, including the freehold of 62-acre Broadoak Farm, was to go into trust to provide income for Edwin's wife.

There was also a specific provision that Derek, as the son, could buy his father's half of the business at half the value fixed by the trustees of Lloyds Bank, the only benefit he would have received under the terms of the will.

Derek wanted to go on farming and decided to buy half the estate. But his mother contested the will and its execution was frozen as a result. Meanwhile, the estate was administered by the financial services and trust division of Lloyds Bank in Bristol and Derek continued as the tenant of the let land.

But while legal proceedings over the will worked their way slowly through the courts, compound interest was accumulating on an overdraft left by the father and frozen as part of the estate.

Mr Winstone's case is that, as trustees, the bank should have taken action to wipe out the overdraft, that is, selling some of his father's shareholdings. "From that day on, the trustees sat back and did nothing," said Mr Winstone.

But the bank points out that where a will is contested, it is unable at law to take any action.

Either way, the dispute over the will finally came to court in 1984. Mr Winstone was declared liable to pay his mother £40,000 and to pay off the overdraft, which by this time stood at £55,000. The total for which he was liable, with legal costs, was £98,000.

Mr Winstone was appalled. He asks why, if he was liable for the overdraft, did the bank not draw his attention to the need to reduce it over the seven years? It may be that he was naive not to inquire what was happening to the overdraft. But he can reasonably

Cash raised against the unsold plots

query why he was not notified by means of statements or letters of any accumulating interest payable.

The nub of his case, which has been taken up and publicized in *Farming News*, is that the land was never his, because the terms of the will were being contested. Alternatively, if the land was his and he was liable for the overdraft, why was he not informed about the need to reduce it during the seven years?

As a result of the court's decision, he was forced to agree to the executors selling the 62-acre Broadoak Farm. Only one of three lots eventually sold and there was still about £18,500 to find to clear legal costs. Mr Winstone



Over the farm gate: Derek Winstone says his land has brought him nothing but trouble

hoped that that would be the end of it.

He raised the money against the unsold plots of land and wrote to Lloyds, offering to pay in full on receipt of the deeds for the remaining land. But another problem arose.

There was an unspecified sum of capital gains tax, possibly £20,000, on the land that had been sold, and for which the bank said he was liable. But Mr Winstone says: "It was never my land. That was why I was having to buy it under the terms of the will."

The bank disagrees. In a letter to Mr Winstone it says the land did belong to him and that the bank "simply joined in as trustee of the joint conveyance in place of your father".

Mr Winstone has now been obliged to sign away the 30 acres of unsold land to settle the outstanding debt. He intends, however, to sue the trustees, and the National Farmers' Union has agreed to take up his case.

The bank says that as the whole affair had been the subject of a court order, it is not able to comment. Powerless the bank's trustees may have been, but Mr Winstone is left with an overwhelming grievance that things were not handled quite as they might have been.

He says: "I accept that, because the will was contested, that may cost my father's estate money. But why should it cost me money? As a result, I'm now paying interest

of some £10,000 on the legal costs of it all, which is an unproductive investment. At least if I'd borrowed the money to buy cows or equipment it would show a return."

He now has no choice, he says, but to sue. "Otherwise I'll go bankrupt," he says, "and I'd sooner pack up than that. At least at the moment I can still look out other people in the face."

The affair demonstrates how costly such administrative muddles can become. The Consumers' Association advises people to think care-

'No substitute for the right friend'

fully when appointing executors of a will. In its book *Wills and Probate*, it says banks may be appointed "if there is no one individual you feel you could entrust this task to, maybe because there are family arguments".

But the disadvantages, it says, are that a bank charges considerably more to administer an estate than do professional trustees such as accountants and solicitors. They also do not have the personal attention and knowledge of the family that an individual personally appointed would usually have.

"Banks," it says, "may employ competent and sympathetic staff, but they are no substitute for the right friend or relation."

Sometimes a bank is appointed joint executor with a member of the family or close friend. When the time comes to administer the estate, it may be that the individual executor feels quite able to do so without the bank's help — but it is very unlikely the bank would agree to renounce, the book says.

One advantage, however, is that if there is likely to be a trust set up by the will that could go on for a long time, say for several generations, there would not be the need to change trustees.

A better alternative, the Consumers' Association recommends, is probably to appoint individuals to be executors, such as a solicitor or accountant, together with a family friend.

A third option is the Public Trust Office, which came into being this month and has taken on the work of the former Public Trustee Office.

The Public Trust Office aims to administer cases with the minimum of formality so that costs are as low as possible and has resources to handle on a large scale the management and investment of a wide range of privately owned assets. These would include those of mental patients and others under a mental disability where there is no other person to act.

Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

Law Report January 31 1987

Judge's discretion to sever counts of indictment

Regina v Phillips
Before Lord Justice Woolf, Mr Justice Webster and Mr Justice Tucker
[Judgment January 30]

A defendant was not entitled as of right to have property seized counts of an indictment severed on the ground that he wished to give evidence on one count which might incriminate him on another.

The trial judge had a discretion under section 5(3) of the Indictments Act 1915, to sever the counts in the interests of justice and in exercising that discretion, he was entitled to take into account the administrative inconvenience of ordering separate trials as well as the circumstances of the defendant.

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) upheld the decision of Judge Russell Vick at Maidstone Crown Court not to sever two counts (conspiracy and burglary) on which the defendant, Daniel Mark Phillips, had been indicted, but allowed the defendant's appeal against his conviction on February 6, 1986 on the conspiracy count because certain admissions which had been left to the jury should have been treated as inadmissible.

The defendant was acquitted on the burglary count on a retrial.

Mr James Turner, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the defendant; Mr Keith Simpson for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE WOOLF, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that the defendant wished to give evidence on the burglary count but not on the conspiracy count.

Counsel for the defendant contended that two counts had been properly joined but submitted that the court's discretion to sever in the interests of justice could only be exercised in favour of severance where the defence would be prejudiced by the evidence on the other count.

He further submitted that the administrative inconvenience and expense of two trials could not be allowed to override the right of a defendant to give

evidence or keep silent in relation to only one offence.

Section 1 of the Criminal Evidence Act 1898 provided: "Every person charged with an offence shall be a competent witness for the defence..."

Provided... (a) a person so charged shall not be called as a witness... except upon his own application... (b) a person charged... being a witness... may be asked any question in cross-examination... notwithstanding that it would tend to incriminate him as to the offence charged... (c) a person charged... shall not be asked and if asked shall not be required to answer any question tending to show that he has committed... any offence other than that with which he is then charged...

Although the 1898 Act referred to "offences" in the singular, it had to be treated as applying to "offences" in the plural and regarded as giving the defendant a choice of giving evidence or not in relation to all the offences at the trial on which he was properly indicted.

Ordinarily, if offences were properly joined, a defendant did not have the right to have the indictment severed because he might wish to give evidence in respect of one count and not another.

It would be a matter for the discretion of the trial judge whether or not to sever the indictment.

In considering whether to sever, section 5(3) of the Indictments Act 1915 had to be borne in mind.

In exercising his discretion, the judge could take into account the practical consequences of ordering separate trials including the expense and inconvenience to witnesses as well as the circumstances of the defendant.

While the right of a defendant not to give evidence had to be recognized and weight could be given to his desires, it had to be borne in mind that he could change his mind about giving evidence and applications to sever might be made for tactical reasons.

The court did not dissent from the judge's decision not to sever. The counts were closely interrelated and it was desirable that they be dealt with together.

The conviction was also chal-

lenged on the ground that the judge had failed to direct the jury that each member of the jury had to be satisfied that the defendant conspired with the same person.

The conspiracy count alleged that the defendant conspired with other defendants who pleaded guilty and with persons unknown.

There was no suggestion that there was ever more than one conspiracy and in such a case there was no need to direct the jury that they had to be unanimously agreed as to the identity of one other individual besides the defendant who was a party to the conspiracy.

It would be open to the jury to conclude that there was a conspiracy to which the defendant was a party without making any finding as to the identity of any individual conspirators. The precise identity or number of conspirators would not be material provided the jury were satisfied that there was a conspiracy consisting of at least two persons one of whom was the defendant.

In *R v Brown* (1974) 70 Cr App R 115 the Court of Appeal held that, on a charge of fraudulently inducing investments by making misleading statements, the jury had to be unanimously agreed that the same misleading statement had been made.

Brown was binding on the court but did not apply in the present case. The misleading statement was an essential element of the offence and the identity of the defendant's co-conspirator was not.

The court adopted the approach of Lord Justice Neill in *R v Moore* (unreported, February 28, 1986, CA) (currently subject of an appeal to the House of Lords) that a *Brown* direction would only be necessary in comparatively rare cases where there was a risk of disagreement between members of the jury as to whether a particular ingredient of the offence had been proved.

The conviction for conspiracy would be quashed on the ground that evidence of confessions obtained as a result of inducements should have been treated as inadmissible.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Maidstone.

Solicitor negligence claim no bar to Law Society inquiry

Lipman Bray (a firm) v Hillhouse and Another
Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice May
[Judgment January 30]

A claim was not "doomed to failure" simply because that party's legal adviser had earlier indicated that it would not be pursued, although it was more difficult to pursue thereafter.

The Court of Appeal so observed, allowing an appeal by the defendants, Robert Francis Hillhouse and Wendy Jacob, from an order of Judge Pheasant at Bloomsbury County Court on June 11, 1986, striking out their defence and counterclaim in an action by the plaintiffs, Lipman Bray, a firm of solicitors.

Mr Richard Slowe, who did not appear below, for the defendants; Mr Edward Cousins for the plaintiffs.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the plaintiffs, formerly known as Redstone, Kinschel & Bray, having acted as solicitors for the defendants in the purchase of a house at 68 Portland Road, Notting Hill, London, had begun proceedings in the county court to recover from them unpaid fees amounting to £358.

The solicitor in charge had been Mr Kirscheil.

The defendants by way of defence and counterclaim alleged negligence by the plaintiffs in two respects.

First, a failure to stamp the conveyance and to pay Land Registry charges even though specifically put in funds in order to do so, thus attracting a penalty for late payment on the stamp.

Second, a failure to make

proper inquiries as to the rights of the tenants of the property to exclusive use of the garden.

Mr William Stockler, the solicitor currently acting for the defendants, also submitted a complaint about the plaintiffs to the Law Society but the Law Society declined to investigate the matter until the negligence claim had been disposed of.

That had been the customary procedure at that time, but his Lordship believed that the current approach would have been more refined.

It could not be right merely because there was a claim in negligence to refuse to investigate a matter of alleged misconduct.

Only if there was a risk that the investigation of misconduct in some way might muddy the waters of justice should the solicitors' complaints bureau decline to investigate.

On May 3, 1984, Mr Stockler wrote to the Law Society saying that his clients had decided not to take action against the plaintiffs because they had mitigated their loss entirely, apparently on the basis that after litigation against the two tenants in the house, the defendants had been able to buy them out.

If there had been negligence, his Lordship could not see how the compromise of that action could mitigate the defendants' loss, which one would have thought in the circumstances would have been substantial.

The Law Society thereafter investigated and found proved the allegations of misconduct, and Mr Kirscheil was reprimanded.

The plaintiffs then pursued their claim for the fees and, in view of the letter of May 3,

applied to strike out the defence and counterclaim.

The judge reviewed the documents and concluded that the defence and counterclaim were "doomed to failure" as a result of the letter of May 3.

His Lordship could not see how the fact that one party changed his mind about whether he had a claim after a claim was pursued against him by the other could mean that the first party's claim had to fail, although it might not be so easy to pursue it.

It was particularly unfortunate that a matter involving such relatively small sums had been dealt with summarily in such a way that it had to come to the Court of Appeal and would, on the appeal being allowed, then have to go somewhere else.

One further matter had to be mentioned: the plaintiffs in rage and fury had written to Mr Stockler threatening to make him personally liable for costs if the counterclaim were pursued. They did not in the end make such an application.

Although the ruling had not been made at that time, his Lordship's court had recently stated (*Orchard v South Eastern Electricity Board* (The Times November 14, 1986; 1987 2 WLR 102)) that threats of that sort, designed to make solicitors withhold their support for their clients, were quite improper.

His Lordship hoped that if such threats had ever been commonly made, they would certainly not be made in future.

Lord Justice May delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Lipman Bray; William Stockler & Co.

Alternative statutory theft offence implied in another subsection

Regina v Whiting
Before Lord Justice Croom-Johnson, Mr Justice Peter Pain and Mr Justice Roush
[Judgment January 26]

A jury was entitled to find a defendant guilty of an offence of entering as a trespasser with intent to steal, contrary to section 9(1)(a) of the Theft Act 1968, as an alternative to an offence of having entered as a trespasser and stolen therein, contrary to section 9(1)(b), since a charge under section 9(1)(b) impliedly included an allegation under section 9(1)(a).

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) so held in dismissing an appeal by Paul Anthony Whiting against his conviction by Lewes Crown Court on July 2, 1985 of an offence under section 9(1)(a) of the 1968 Act.

The Criminal Law Act 1967 provides, by section 6: "... (3) Where, on a person's trial on indictment for any offence except treason or murder, the jury find him not guilty of the offence specifically charged in the indictment, but the allegations in the indictment amount to or include (expressly or by implication) an allegation of another offence falling within the jurisdiction of the court of trial, the jury may find him guilty of that other offence or of an offence of which he could be found guilty on an indictment specifically charging that other offence."

Mr Jonathan Cowen, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the defendant; Mr Philip Noble for the prosecutor.

LORD JUSTICE CROOM-

JOHNSON said that the issue raised by the appeal was whether a verdict under section 9(1)(a) was an alternative to one under section 9(1)(b). The Court of Appeal in *R v Hollis* (1971) Crim LR 525 had said that it was not. The question was whether that case was still good law.

The jury in the instant case had acquitted the defendant of the offence under section 9(1)(b) but had convicted under section 9(1)(a). They must have decided that the defendant had entered the building with intent to steal, but were not satisfied that he had succeeded in stealing.

In *R v Springfield* (1969) 53 Cr App R 608 the question before the Court of Appeal was whether common assault was an alternative to robbery within section 6(3) of the Criminal Law Act 1967. The court held that as the actual use of violence was not a necessary ingredient of robbery, it was not a possible alternative verdict.

In *R v Wilson* (Clarence) (1984) AC 242 Lord Roskill in the House of Lords rejected the test in *Springfield* that the alternative should be a "necessary step" or "essential ingredient" of the offence charged, and the House of Lords overruled that case.

Hollis was not cited before the House of Lords, but since it had proceeded on the same basis as *Springfield* it had to be wrong and treated as no longer being the law.

Of the four possible approaches set out by Lord Roskill in *Wilson* the fourth was relevant here, namely, did the offence of entering and stealing

under section 9(1)(b) implicitly include an entry with the relevant intent?

In *Wilson*, Lord Roskill said at pp260-261: "The critical question is, therefore, whether it is accepted that a charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm contrary to section 20 may not necessarily involve an allegation of assault, but may nonetheless will involve such an allegation. The allegation in a section 20 charge 'include either expressly or by implication' allegations of assault occasioning actual bodily harm. If 'inflicting' can, as the cases show, include 'inflicting by assault', then even though such a charge may not necessarily do so, I do not... see why on a fair reading of section 6(3) these allegations do not at least implicitly include 'inflicting by assault'."

Although section 9(1)(b) did not require that the entry as a trespasser, which resulted in stealing, should be with the intent to steal at the time of entry, yet in many, if not the vast majority, of cases that was the position.

One could therefore transpose the wording of the passage in the speech of Lord Roskill, applying that reasoning, there was no reason why on a fair reading of section 6(3) of the 1967 Act the allegations under section 9(1)(b) of the 1968 Act did not at least implicitly include "entering with intent".

Accordingly the requirements of section 6(3) were satisfied and the appeal would be dismissed. Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Brighton.

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Serious injury to Holding takes the gilt off West Indies win



Holding, a Rolls Royce among bowlers, carried off the field at Melbourne with a hamstring injury which may end his career. Dujon rushes to assist the stricken bowler and Botham, possibly Holding's final victim, leads the stretcher party

Tired England feel the strain

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Melbourne

On another pitch that was nothing like good enough for one of the world's great grounds, England lost to West Indies by six wickets here yesterday, a result which leaves all three sides in the Benson and Hedges World Series Cup level on points. All that separates them is scoring rate. Here, with 4.38 and 4.20 runs per over respectively, Australia and England have an appreciable advantage over West Indies (3.50).

Each side has two qualifying matches to play, England's being against Australia here tomorrow and against West Indies at Devonport in Tasmania next Tuesday. Winning one or the other should still be enough to gain them a place in the final; but yesterday's defeat gives them that much less leeway.

On a pitch of unpredictable movement and uneven bounce — Richards threw down his bat in despair while winning the match for West Indies — England needed only 175 to give them an even chance of winning. As it was they managed only 147, and without Dilley to bowl for them that was not quite enough.

Although West Indies had only nine balls to spare when they won, they had been able to take their time, though not to give their scoring rate a boost.

Choosing to bat first, England carried out what they had left off in Adelaide on Monday, when they lost their last seven wickets for 66 runs. Their best partnership yesterday was one of 27 for the seventh wicket between Richards and Embury. England's batting was awful, with no one looking to put the fielders under pressure.

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There was less help for the bowlers in overcast conditions on a green, patchy pitch than might have been expected. Of the batsmen Shipped in particular played for periods as if expecting the ball to move about more. It could be said the rebels were treating it like a Test match.

The innings of the day came from Smith, who will probably play for Australia when his ban ends next year. He and Hayman have not wasted the opportunity to benefit from this long tour. Smith scored 77 out of a 123-run opening partnership.

Levi Hull, of Britain, now leads the blue group ahead of Steve Moyes, the former world champion, after four rounds. Hull is one of the senior members of the British team in the world masters, but is relatively unknown on the international circuit, a situation the Derbyshire pilot is quickly changing with his performances.

Ricky Duncan, of Australia, continues to dominate the red group — again gaining maximum points possible to extend his lead over Jess Flynn, another Briton. John Pendry, however, is looking more dangerous in this group and has moved to fifth position behind Duncan.

Dilley moving on

Graham Dilley yesterday ended several weeks of speculation by confirming that he will leave Kent to play for Worcestershire next season, joining Ian Botham. The 27-year-old England fast bowler has signed a five-year contract thought to be worth around £100,000. Dilley informed Kent of his decision from Melbourne, thus ending a 10-year association.

Gating runs like a millionaire, Embury like an elderly spinster and Athey like a clockwork mouse that stops and starts.

For the second successive innings Lamb was sent back hopelessly late, and run out. Botham was responsible in Adelaide and Broad here. Broad and Embury made two runs more than all the other batsmen put together. Broad solidified on, more confidently than most; Embury nudged the ball around, and then, just before he was out, hit Garner for six to long-on, a considerable blow.

Gating was beginning to look at home when he chose quite the wrong ball to try and cut, so was Botham when he was caught and bowled off a

lifter. There was much poignancy in this. As he did when West Indies last played here, Holding was bowling beautifully. He had missed West Indies' last two matches with injury and turned out now only to set the West Indians a vice-captain's example.

In lengthening his stride and then thrusting to reach the return chance from Botham, he tore a hamstring very badly. As he went down, the ball in his left hand, his right clutching the back of his right thigh, it was the end, I imagine, of an outstanding career. Botham helped carry him off until a stretcher arrived.

Holding has been a lovely bowler. One of cricket's great natural athletes and as genuine as they come. You can believe all the nice things that will be said about him.

Worcestershire will have noticed, I expect, that Dilley was missing again from the England side. Having passed a fitness test in the morning, he then aggravated an injury to his arm. Foster, his crew-cut replacement, was never quite sure where the next ball was going, which was hardly surprising in view of his long absence from the side. England, in fact, bowled eight

wides and three no-balls. They are flagging, I am afraid, but they still had enough in them to make a real fight of it.

While the white balls were new (they use a different one at each end) DeFreitas and Small were dangerous. In the fourth over Richardson was caught at the wicket. But comes, after getting away with a close call for his before as soon as he came in, played staunchly; but then, when Haynes was out, Richards came and settled things. If there had been any doubt about the result until now — and on such a pitch there must have been — it disappeared in the 30th over, bowled by Embury.

With towering sixes off the four and fifth balls, Richards became the first cricketer to reach 5,000 runs in one-day internationals, though the victory he went on to clinch, when his side badly needed it, will have pleased him more. He was made Man of the Match.

The crowd was 18,405. Tomorrow, for England's match against Australia, they are catering for 80,000. Before deciding who is fit, England will have to take an inventory in the morning. Broad (hamstring) did not field yesterday; nor did Lamb (knee) for most of the time. These next two

return catch that dismissed Ian Botham, had returned to the West Indies side after suffering hamstring trouble in Adelaide last week.

The Jamaican fast bowler said: "Probably the peculiar action I had to take to make the catch stretched the muscle just too far. But it was a heaven-sent opportunity to get rid of Botham and I was committed to the catch."

Holding, who will be 33 next month, said the injury would probably mean the end of the season for him.

Batting worries Gating

The England captain, Mike Gating, refused to blame the batsmen for the defeat by West Indies which threw the World Series Cup wide open. "I'm not going to criticise," Gating said. "We are doing better than we are. Our middle-order batting has been very poor of late."

Gating was "very pleased" with Neil Foster, who came in at the last minute as deputy for Graham Dilley. "But I'm afraid we let us down," he said.

England, who have several first-choice players struggling with injuries, will not practise before tomorrow's crucial game against Australia at Melbourne.

Gating said, "It doesn't matter how many tests we have at the time of the tour. Test is the only answer for all our injuries. Gating is particularly concerned about the hamstring problems affecting Broad and Lamb, but we've just got to keep going." He said the team had been on the road for four months and was "running down."

Michael Holding, who tore a hamstring muscle in his right leg when he injured to hold the

return catch that dismissed Ian Botham, had returned to the West Indies side after suffering hamstring trouble in Adelaide last week.

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Hot air at Roehampton fails to save cup match

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Rosslyn Park have been beaten by the weather for the second successive weekend. Last Saturday evening they were forced to postpone their John Player Special Cup third-round tie with Leicester yet again because of the frost of the last two days has made their pitch at Roehampton unplayable.

Park's pitch had not recovered from frost and snow in time to let the tie go ahead last weekend (the scheduled date), but tarpaulins have been spread over the playing surface during the week and Parkbrought in hot-air blowers to try and ensure that the game went ahead.

The knock-out effect of last week's postponement has already hit Coventry, who were due to play a merit table game with the Park today (they meet Lichfield instead), and Leicester, already without first-choice players in Richards and Evans, will lose another if the game had to be played next weekend, since Eng-

land would require Underwood in Ireland. The postponement had given Leicester, the Park's captain, time to recover from a rib cartilage injury and lead his side in an effort to break the unwanted tradition of the last four years, when Park have left the cup at the third-round stage. Now, however, some consideration will have to be given to next weekend when Park have a game against Bath scheduled for Friday evening. They would not wish to give up that game but if the cup tie does not go ahead next weekend, the following weekend is February 14 when the fourth-round ties are due to be played.

Leicester, as much for their own cup tradition as for the present form (Rosslyn Park were among their victims on the way to their first cup final, in 1978), stood as favourites. Nick Mahoney, the Gloucester coach, had planned to miss his club's re-arranged match against

Aspatia to get a glimpse of his fourth-round cup opponents. Coincidentally, Leicester had been due to travel to Gosforth today.

England's selectors had also hoped to be present at Roehampton, since the national squad gather this evening for a workout at the Stoop Memorial ground tomorrow, in preparation for next weekend's international in Dublin.

Newport, incidentally, anticipate a Leicester win because they have already asked Cardiff to consider playing them on February 14 — the date they should meet Leicester but will not if the Midlands side remain in the cup. Cardiff were due to play Bristol, who are also involved in the cup's fourth round.

It will be no surprise if several games do fall by the wayside today. London Irish, due to play Pontypool, without their international trio of MacLennan, Gibson and McCull, found their pitch unplayable yesterday but will inspect again, Nottingham inspect this morning and are prepared to travel to Headingley if Beeston is unfit (assuming the Yorkshire club have a playable surface).

More than just Fylde members will be keen to see the game with Morley go ahead for Fylde can put out a back including Bainbridge, Dooley and Macfarlane. It would be the first match for Bainbridge since he severely damaged a hamstring in November. The England lock desperately needs a place in the national side, as is Dooley, and the selectors would be delighted to have them fit and well.

Meanwhile a former England lock, Coleough, is captain Swans for the first time against Ebbw Vale and London Welsh travel to Maesteg hoping to be less generous than they were on Thursday evening.

Their centurion, Ian Jones, produced a cheque for £26,000

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Laity given a chance to shine

By David Hands

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A British Polytechnics side to play University College, London, at Moutspur Park on Wednesday includes three members of the Students side: Reid, a centre, and Macfarlane, the hooker, both from Sheffield, and Billington, the Liverpool flanker.

In the UAU tournament Loughborough, the holders, will play Bristol at Stourbridge and Durham meet Cardiff Medicals at Rugby. In the Polytechnics semi-finals Sheffield will play

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Go-slow Rebels play it safe

From Ivo Tennant, Port Elizabeth

On the oldest and least modernized of South Africa's main grounds, where the wind knifes through the preening stands, the unofficial Australian tourists made reasonable progress yesterday on the first day of the final representative match here.

There was less help for the bowlers in overcast conditions on a green, patchy pitch than might have been expected. Of the batsmen Shipped in particular played for periods as if expecting the ball to move about more. It could be said the rebels were treating it like a Test match.

The innings of the day came from Smith, who will probably play for Australia when his ban ends next year. He and Hayman have not wasted the opportunity to benefit from this long tour. Smith scored 77 out of a 123-run opening partnership.

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Rematch date for Scots

By a Special Correspondent

Weathermen forecast classic 8,000th thermals at the 20th world championships yesterday but the actual conditions were poorer with thermals in "blue" conditions reaching only a maximum 6,500ft.

Most of the Open Class completed their 840 kilometre triangle because they launched first from 11am, but there were no finishers in either of the other two classes, scoring thus being on distance alone.

The long tasks took a heavy toll and at sunset, ground crews were still out looking for pilots.

RESULTS: Provisional on reported distances: Ebbw Vale Open (840 km triangle), 1. R. Hunter (F4, ASW22B) 1:00:00, 2. M. Schreder (F4, ASW22B) 1:00:00, 3. G. Gernert (F4, ASW22B) 1:00:00.

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Hull snatches the lead

From a Special Correspondent, Mount Buffalo, Australia

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Long, low day for pilots

By a Special Correspondent

Weathermen forecast classic 8,000th thermals at the 20th world championships yesterday but the actual conditions were poorer with thermals in "blue" conditions reaching only a maximum 6,500ft.

Most of the Open Class completed their 840 kilometre triangle because they launched first from 11am, but there were no finishers in either of the other two classes, scoring thus being on distance alone.

The long tasks took a heavy toll and at sunset, ground crews were still out looking for pilots.

RESULTS: Provisional on reported distances: Ebbw Vale Open (840 km triangle), 1. R. Hunter (F4, ASW22B) 1:00:00, 2. M. Schreder (F4, ASW22B) 1:00:00, 3. G. Gernert (F4, ASW22B) 1:00:00.

Other Open: 7. G. Lee (F4, ASW22B) 1:00:00, 8. J. D. Jones (F4, ASW22B) 1:00:00, 9. J. D. Jones (F4, ASW22B) 1:00:00, 10. J. D. Jones (F4, ASW22B) 1:00:00.

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Injury crisis may force Hollins to play Dixon

By Clive White

It is not a good time for John Hollins, the Chelsea manager, to be back in the public eye tomorrow. Just when he could have done with a little quiet convalescence — Chelsea have lost only once in their last seven games — he steps back into television spotlight at a time of further disruption, not all of it of his own making.

Chelsea, who face Watford in an FA Cup fourth round tie before the ITV cameras at Vicarage Road, could be without seven key players, through injury, and another whose pride has been so badly hurt that he has expressed a wish never to play for the club again.

Kerry Dixon, the England centre forward, who asked to go on the transfer list on Tuesday after being dropped and then discovering that the club were attempting to buy another centre forward, has been included by Hollins in the squad for a match of enormous importance to the London club.

Knocked prematurely out of the Littlewoods Cup in the most humiliating fashion by Cardiff City, a fourth division



FA CUP

club, and still in the midst of a relegation struggle, Hollins was never more in need of solidarity at the club.

Yet Dixon, the club's leading goalscorer since his arrival from Reading, was reported yesterday as saying: "It's not a question of trying to play my way back into the team. Things have gone too far for me now. I want to leave as quickly as possible and I don't mind where I go." He added: "I'm left now not even wanting to play for the first team, even if the manager wanted to put me back in."

When Hollins was asked yesterday if he thought Dixon was in the right frame of mind to play, he replied: "I don't know." Much will depend upon the fitness of Speedie before Hollins can assess the condition of Dixon's mind. Speedie barely trained yesterday because of a hamstring injury. He said that Dixon's transfer request would have no effect on whether he played. "They are my players."

I either pick them or I don't." He will certainly not be able to pick McLaughlin, who has been ruled out by a knee injury. Niedzwiecki, who could not play at Norwich last week because of a knee injury, is still troubled and the most unlikely of the others to be fit. Hollins is hoping that the extra day's rest will enable Pates, the captain, to recover from a calf injury and Hazard, a thigh injury. Murphy and McAllister are also unavailable because of long-term injuries.

By comparison Watford are a picture of health, though Barnes, their influential England winger, will require a fitness test on an ankle. He has been suffering from tendonitis but Watford are optimistic.

Luton Town, another club seldom out of the limelight for one reason or another, at least should expect no gripes from the opposition this time should they win. Their opponents on Kenilworth Road's controversial surface are fellow plastic pitch pioneers, Queen's Park Rangers. Nor do Luton have any reason to contemplate defeat having never lost to Rangers since becoming the first side to win

on artificial surface some years ago at Loftus Road.

This will be Luton's fourth game in eight days — three of them on the plastic, which can be particularly demanding on the limbs. Hill is already a possible casualty, having twisted a knee in the third round replay with Liverpool on Wednesday. Jim Smith, the Rangers manager, has great respect for his rivals and friends. "I fully expected them to beat Liverpool," he said.

QPR buy expensive new pitch

Queen's Park Rangers are to spend £375,000 on a new plastic pitch as football starts its search for the ideal synthetic surface.

League chairmen have agreed to a three-year freeze on the artificial explosion but they have left the way clear for the quartet of clubs already converted to lay improved pitches.

Rangers will be the first this summer and their spokesman, Denis Signy, said: "It will be the most up-to-date — and expensive — in the world." Rangers, the plastic pitch pioneers, are currently on their second artificial surface but it has still provoked a great deal of criticism.

Luton Town's carpet was rolled out on a two-year trial, and the League secretary, Graham Kelly, has made it clear that they will have to apply for an extension at the end of this season regardless of the EGM decision.

"There is an onus on Luton to re-apply and an onus on the management committee to determine any application which they receive," Kelly said. "I wouldn't say permission will be extended automatically."

The League will want to ensure that the Luton surface meets strict guidelines, especially as a recent BBC test suggested it was 40 per cent too firm.

"It was perfectly all right at the end of last season, but maybe it's now a case of remedial work being carried out," a club official said. "We would like to know whether the BBC test allowed for the frosty conditions."

Luton, meanwhile, do not expect any problem in continuing their plastic experiment. "As far as we are concerned this week's vote has given us the go-ahead to co-operate fully in a research programme for the next three years," the official continued. Preston North End and Oldham Athletic also have synthetic pitches.

Poli confirms entry
Los Angeles (AFP) — Gianni Poli of Italy, surprising winner of last year's New York Marathon, has confirmed that he will take part in the Los Angeles Marathon here on March 1. The race will feature around 12,000 competitors.

ATHLETICS

Ridgeon takes on Nehemiah alone

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

One of the young pretenders crosses hurdles with the king tomorrow. Jon Ridgeon, who won the AAA 60 metres indoor title last week, is to meet for the first time Renaldo Nehemiah, the world 110 metres record holder, in Stuttgart. Nehemiah is making a flying visit to Germany after racing in the Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden early this morning (British time).

The pity is that Colin Jackson, Ridgeon's great rival, whom many people are tipping as the successor to Nehemiah, has had to pull out of the Stuttgart meeting. After beating Ridgeon to the inaugural world 110m junior title last year and winning the Commonwealth silver medal, Jackson was kept out of the European championships by a hamstring injury.

Although he says it has not restricted his mobility, the continuous ache since then has caused Jackson to seek medication. He has had two cortisone injections and his doctor has advised him not to race.

But there will still be enormous interest in how Ridgeon, who is aged almost 20, the same as Jackson, fares against Nehemiah. The American dominated high hurdling in the late 1970s and set a world record of 12.93 seconds for the 110m in 1981, which no one has approached since.

But Nehemiah was tempted into American football and, after four unsuccessful years as a wide receiver for the San Francisco 49ers, he was recruited by the International Amateur Athletic Federation



Close encounter: Sherwani (left) and Leman collide as Birmingham attack (photograph: Ian Stewart)

Lyle opens in style amid rain

From John Ballantine, Pebble Beach

Sandy Lyle scored a fine opening 68 at Spy Glass Hill in the AT and T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am tournament and, with three rounds to be played by Sunday, the Scot has a real chance to win, or at least finish highly-placed, in the fourth and last tournament of his short, early campaign in the United States.

The 1985 Open champion stood on the green behind the clubhouse, Rex Caldwell. He said later: "Of course, I should be getting my game together after playing for a month solid. My confidence is definitely coming back."

It ill-befits a correspondent to berate a tournament's shortcomings, but it was ironic that, in an event newly-sponsored by a telephone company, the communications should be almost the worst on record.

For nearly one hour after Lyle had finished at the distant Spy Glass, his score was posted as 67.

Also, darkness had long fallen before anyone knew at headquarters what Greg Norman, the Open champion and one of the favourites here, had scored.

Lyle began at the 10th and got out in 35, scoring three birdies but three-putting the 15th green from 30 feet and missing a chip at the 16th.

Afterwards, he admitted that being able to lift, clean and place the ball on the water-soaked fairways was a distinct advantage.

Security guards were given instructions to be extra vigilant and the house lights, which are usually put out during play, were kept on at a

SNOOKER

Meo goes through by slimmest margin

By a Special Correspondent

Doug Mountjoy left the final black in the deciding frame hanging invitingly over the pocket. Tony Meo gratefully accepted the opportunity to record a 5-4 win and go into the semi-finals of the £200,000 Benson and Hedges Masters Tournament at Wembley Conference Centre.

An intriguing tussle had favoured at first one player and then the other with Meo, the current English professional champion, at his best in the fourth and fifth frames that saw him come from 2-1 down to take a 3-2 lead.

He won the fourth frame on the pink after Mountjoy had held the early advantage and seemed to have little chance of adding to his tally when the Welshman opened up a 63-1 lead in the fifth. But a superb 66 clearance gave the Londoner the frame on the black and the lead for the first time since he had won the opening

frame. Then it was Mountjoy's turn to show his ability. A break of 70 proved more than enough to earn him the sixth frame and he went back in front with a run of 51 that gave him the next by a 111-12 margin before Meo replied with a superb century break to send the match into the deciding frame.

It could so easily have gone either way. Meo led 39-17 with one red remaining, but Mountjoy seemed to have it in his pocket until missing the vital last black.

Meo was full of sympathy for his beaten opponent. "I don't think anyone has ever played better than Doug did today and lost a snooker match," he said. "A draw would have been the only fair result, but, of course, we can't have draws."

QUARTER-FINALS: T Meo vs D Mountjoy 5-4. Frame scores (Meo first): 77-31, 32-50, 6-102, 63-56, 67-58, 9-75, 12-111, 101-6, 45-43.

Security is tightened

By Sydney Friskin

Security was tightened at the Wembley Conference Centre last night for the Benson and Hedges Masters quarter-final between Alex Higgins and the present world champion, Joe Johnson. A vast throng jammed the entrance to the building and a total of 2,691 spectators was admitted.

Security guards were given instructions to be extra vigilant and the house lights, which are usually put out during play, were kept on at a

low level to enable the staff of the conference centre to spot the troublemakers who throughout the week have distracted players and audiences by shouting while play is in progress particularly in matches featuring Higgins and Jimmy White. Their aggressive style of play seems generally to incite the unruly

The tournament director, Nick Hill, had issued two warnings to the effect that spectators who persisted in shouting would be ejected.

City tale of three Taylors

By Sydney Friskin

The first match in the Lada Inter-City indoor hockey championship at Crystal Palace yesterday was a story of three Taylors. Ian Taylor and Nick Taylor, who are unrelated, were in goal for Southampton, and Steve Taylor kept goal for Birmingham. Southampton were beaten 8-6 in Group A.

Ian Taylor was in action in the first half for Southampton and at half-time they led 4-3. Cliff van Asselt from a penalty stroke, Head, and Leman from a corner, having scored for Southampton. Mallett, Knott, and Simon Bostock for Birmingham who had scored first.

Nick Taylor took over from Ian Taylor in the second-half and conceded five goals under rising pressure from Birmingham. Steve Taylor saved a penalty stroke from van Asselt in the second half and almost immediately Sherwani set up a chance for Partington to level the score at 4-4.

Further goals by Murphy, Sherwani, from a corner, Andy Bostock, and Knott put Birmingham 8-4 ahead and in the closing minutes Southampton scored twice through Lawson and Leman.

Bristol beat Hull 7-4 in Group B. Bristol led 5-0 at half-time through goals by Purchase, Hill, Tredgett, Nicholson, and Tredgett again. Hull scored through Wake and Stamp, but Purchase and Organ scored a goal each for Bristol after which Stamp and Wake helped Hull to reduce the lead to 7-4.

RESULTS: Pool A: Birmingham 8, Southampton 6; Norwich 6, London South 4; Pool B: Bristol 7, Hull 4; London North 10, Manchester 5.

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ROWING

Pressure grows on president

By Jim Railton

Donald Macdonald, president of the troubled Oxford Boat Race crew, last night faced a new stage of the rebellion against him, with some college captains questioning his handling of the crisis.

When Macdonald returned home last night from training at Marlow, he found a note had been pushed through his door. It read: "We, the undersigned, captains of college rowing in the University of Oxford, hereby call for an extraordinary meeting of the captains of boats, allowed under the Oxford University Boat Club constitution, to be held at the earliest possible date."

The note had been signed by the captains of boats of Balliol, Oriel, St Peter's Hall, St Peter's College, Corpus Christi and Wadham.

It is the captains of college boats, together with resident crews, who actually elect the president of Oxford University Boat Club. They elected Macdonald to the presidency during the 1986 Trinity term.

Quite clearly, this request for an extraordinary meeting is hardly to put Macdonald on the back or acknowledge the intolerable strain on the president and his family, but rather a move for a vote of no confidence in him.

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